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**GCSE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
(8700)**

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

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## Insert

The two Sources that follow are:

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

A newspaper article called *Could you do your child's homework?*

Source B:

19<sup>th</sup> Century literary non-fiction

Two letters from the 1820s.

**Please turn the page over  
to see the Source**

**Source A – 21st Century non-fiction**

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**Turn over for Source B**

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**Source B – 19<sup>th</sup> Century literary non-fiction**

This Source consists of two letters. The first letter is from a young boy called Henry writing to his father. Henry is living far away from home at a boarding school. A boarding school is a school where you go to live as well as study and was a very popular way of educating boys, especially from wealthier families, in the 1800s.

Cotherstone Academy Aug. 7. 1822

Dear Father

5 Our Master has arrived at Cotherstone, but I was sorry to learn he had no Letter for me nor anything else, which made me very unhappy. If you recollect, I promised that I would write you a sly Letter, which I assure you I have not forgot, and now an opportunity has come at last. I hope, my dear Father, you will not let Mr. Smith know anything about it for he would flog me if he knew it. I hope, my dear Father, you will write me a Letter as soon as you receive this, but pray don't mention anything about this in yours; only put a X at the bottom, or write to my good Friend Mr. Halmer, who is very kind to me and he will give it to me when I go to Church. He lives opposite and I assure you, my dear Father, they are the kindest Friends I have in Yorkshire and I know he will not show it to Mr. Smith for the Letters I write you are all examined before they leave the School. I am obliged to write what Mr. Smith tells us and the letters you send me are all examined by Mr. Smith before I see them, so I hope, my dear Father, you will mention nothing of this when you write.

15 It is now two years come October since I left you at Islington, but I hope, my dear Father, you will let me come home at Xmas that we may once more meet again alive - if God permit me to live as long.

20 Our bread is nearly black; it is made of the worst Barley Meal, and our Beds are stuffed with chaff<sup>1</sup> and I assure you we are used more like Bears than Christians<sup>2</sup>. Believe me, my dear Father, I would rather be obliged to work all my life time than remain here another year.

George is quite well but very unhappy.

Your respectful son

Henry

The second letter, written two weeks later, is from the boy's father to a family friend, asking him to investigate the problem. The father has two sons at the school, Henry and George.

25

Public Office, Worship Street, 21st August 1822.

Sir,

30

Having lately received a Letter from my Son Henry, who is at Mr. Smith's School close by you, complaining of the Treatment he receives, I am induced to write to you, confidentially, to request you will do me the favour to endeavour to see both of them, privately, (at your own House) if possible and ascertain whether you think it would be advisable for me to send for them home. I will certainly be guided by what you say; Boys will sometimes complain without cause, and therefore I hope you will excuse the liberty I take in troubling you. Henry speaks very highly of your kind attention.

35

I do not approve of the System of Education, for they do not appear to have improved. When they left home, they could both spell, and in Henry's Letter I see several words wrong spelt – I also do not like the injunction laid upon them of not being allowed to write to me without the Master's seeing the contents of their Letters.

40

If you should not be able to get a private interview with them in the course of a fortnight, I shall be obliged by your writing to me to say so and I will immediately give notice to Mr. Smith that I intend to have them home at Christmas. I should prefer your seeing George if you can, and hear what he says, as I can rely more on the truth of his story, than Henry's, for I believe Henry's principal object is to get home. We have all a great desire to see him, but particularly to see George, our other son, who is a meek Boy and not so able to endure ill treatment as Henry – George is a great favourite with us all, and so he was with his late dear Mother who is now no more.

45

You will no doubt see my object in thus troubling you and I hope you will excuse the liberty I take, but as I know you have been very kind to the Boys. I shall esteem it an additional favour by your attention to this, and an answer at your earliest convenience.

I remain Sir, very respectfully

50

Your obliged honorable servant

William Heritage

Glossary:

chaff<sup>1</sup> – chopped straw or hay.

Bears than Christians<sup>2</sup> – bears were sometimes mistreated, perhaps suggesting he feels he's being treated more like an animal than a human being, or in a Christian way.

**END OF SOURCES**

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