

General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2008

ENGLISH (SPECIFICATION B)
Paper 1
Higher Tier

3701/1H
H



Tuesday 3 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.40 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book
- Section A of the pre-release booklet (enclosed).

Time allowed: 1 hour 40 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is 3701/1H.
- Answer **all** questions.
- Write your answers in the answer book provided.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to Section A of the pre-release booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 54.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers. All questions should be answered in continuous prose.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading in Section A.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing in Section B.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about one hour on Section A and about 40 minutes on Section B.

SECTION A: READING**MEDIA AND NON-FICTION TEXTS**

Answer **both** questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about one hour on this section. This includes 10 minutes reminding yourself of the content of the pre-release booklet.

You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading.

1 Media Texts

Remind yourself of the media extracts on pages 7 and 10 of the pre-release booklet. Write about the news media techniques used in these extracts by responding to the following prompts:

- How has Xan Rice used facts to help explain the obsession for cycling in Eritrea in his article *Riders on the Sandstorm* on page 7?
- Explain how Richard Williams has made his report about the *Cycling Tour of Britain* on page 10 entertaining by analysing some of the words and phrases he has used.
- Comment on the effectiveness of the picture which accompanies the article *Riders on the Sandstorm* on page 7.
- Comment on the meaning and effectiveness of the title Richard Williams has used for his report on page 10. (13 marks)

2 Non-fiction Text

Read the non-fiction text, *Travels in a Strange State*, on the page opposite.

Now write about the text:

- describing some of the things you learn about Los Angeles
- explaining some of the thoughts and feelings expressed by the writer
- analysing how the writer has used words and phrases in an interesting and engaging way. (14 marks)

Travels in a Strange State

On her eight-month journey by bicycle across America, Josie is in Los Angeles deciding where to go next.

The sound of rain woke me in the night but, in an area where there had been a drought for over six years, it was an artificial rain. Every night phantom sprinklers, elusively embedded in people's gardens and carpet-cropped lawns, fountained into action. This made me wonder how it was that in England, a country renowned for its leaden-sky dampness, hose-pipe bans are imposed after what seems little more than a six-day dry spell, galvanizing squads of helicopters to swoop in for a snoop and catch pooh-poohing drought offenders hand-hosing their cars.

I lay awake in perplexed mood and then set about pondering my next plan of action. Should I cycle south to Mexico or north to Alaska? Did I want to see sombreros or bears, cactus or firs? Did I want to sweat or shiver? Like a spoilt child, I decided I wanted it *all*. I wanted to go everywhere at once. The pipelined rain pattered on. A distant woo-woosing of a siren pierced through the night. I thought: Up or down? North or south? Jet engines throttled back high overhead. Baron, the neighbour's brute of a pet, growled and barked below. His bark seemed to echo the spine-chilling howl of coyotes in distant hills. The snarls reminded me of something I had read somewhere about noisy dogs: in the US dogs may not bark for more than two minutes every hour during daylight and not at all between 8pm and 8am – a sort of programmed pooch.

The sun, a blurry disc of light, lay on the other side of a jaundiced blanket of cloud. The infamous smog of Los Angeles was so thick that I almost carved my way through it. The nauseous taste penetrated everything but then, in an area which is home to 25 million constantly used vehicles, an area where 1,246 tons of noxious gases are spewed into the atmosphere daily from over 3,000 businesses, what could I expect?

My eyes stung and the sweat poured, making my T-shirt stick thick and heavy across my back as I fought my way by bike through the urban mania of north Los Angeles. Cars as big as boats and as numerous as a nightmarish army of ants gunned through the maze of wild, wide streets. The drivers were all drug-crazed psychos, of that there was no doubt. They bulleted towards me from every angle, aggressive and determined. I needed eyes like a centipede does legs. I needed crystal-sharp reflexes. I needed a head that swivelled 360°. I needed an air-conditioned suit of armour and a sub-machine gun. I needed to be aggressive, too, which is not easy while perched on an open-to-everything bicycle in Los Angeles – a city designed on the assumption that everyone has a car. It was easy to see how cars were California's biggest industry. The streets were mean and hostile places where drivers glared at you with death threats in their eyes. It was Sunday, a day when the chances of escaping alive from the mayhem of LA suburbia would be higher. Or so I thought. If it was like this on the 'day of rest', what was it like on the other six? Urban anarchy. But being a Sunday meant that I wasn't entirely alone in negotiating the frenzied streets on a bicycle. In five hours of city riding I came across one other rider, passing on the other side of the street. A shimmering lycra-clad racer. He slalomed across the traffic and came alongside. Walter hailed from Texas, and had lived in Los Angeles for 20 years. In the back pocket of his cycling jersey, where most cyclists store a Mars Bar or banana, Walter had a gun.

'Sure, everybody gottem,' he said. 'Head out without a gun and you're in trouble, man. I wish you luck, kid; you're gonna need it.'

With that, he turned and swerved and was swallowed by the traffic.

JOSIE DEW

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

SECTION B : WRITING TO ARGUE, PERSUADE, ADVISE

You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this section.

You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing.

- 3 ‘Cycling is dangerous, hazardous and risky and so are cyclists: they should be regulated and road taxed like any other vehicle user.’

Write an essay in which you argue for *or* against this view.

(27 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Question 2 Source: JOSIE DEW, *Travels in a Strange State*, Little Brown and Company, 1994

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