

General Certificate of Secondary Education  
November 2008

**ENGLISH (SPECIFICATION B)**  
**Paper 1**  
**Higher Tier**

**3701/1H**  
**H**



Wednesday 5 November 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.

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**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.

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You will be assessed on the quality of your Reading.

**1 Media Texts**

Remind yourself of the media extracts on pages 4, 5 and 6 of the pre-release booklet. Write about the news media techniques used in these extracts by responding to the following prompts:

- How does Matt Seaton employ facts and opinions to express his views in *It's a shard life, cycling*, on page 6?
- Analyse some of the words and phrases used to engage the reader in the article, *Into Death Valley again*, by Stuart Hughes, on pages 4 and 5.
- Comment on the effectiveness of the pictures which accompany the article, *Into Death Valley again*, on pages 4 and 5.
- Comment on the meaning and effectiveness of the titles, *It's a shard life, cycling* and *Into Death Valley again*. (13 marks)

**2 Non-fiction Text**

Read the non-fiction text, *Every Second Counts*, on the page opposite.

Now write about the text:

- describing what you learn about the writer's life
- explaining the writer's thoughts about survival
- analysing the way the writer has used words and phrases effectively. (14 marks)

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### Every Second Counts

**In 1999, Lance Armstrong made world headlines by winning the Tour de France in the fastest ever time after battling against cancer eighteen months before.**

My friend Lee Walker says I got ‘pitched back’. What he means is, I almost died, and possibly even did die a little, but then I got pitched back into the world of the living. It’s as good a description as any of what happened. I was 25 when cancer nearly killed me: the advanced carcinoma required two surgeries and four cycles of chemotherapy to get rid of. I wrote an entire book about death, about confronting the possibility of it, and narrowly escaping it.

What I didn’t and couldn’t address at the time was the prospect of life. Once you figure out you’re going to live, you have to decide how to, and that’s not an uncomplicated matter. You ask yourself: *now that I know I’m not going to die, what will I do! What’s the highest and best use of myself!* For me, the best use of myself has been to race in the Tour de France, the most gruelling sporting event in the world. Every time I win another Tour, I prove that I’m alive - and therefore that others can survive, too. I’ve survived cancer again, and again, and again, and again. I’ve won four Tour titles, and I wouldn’t mind a record-tying five. That would be some good living. But the fact is that I wouldn’t have won even a single Tour de France without the lesson of illness. What it teaches is this: pain is temporary. Quitting lasts forever.

To me, just finishing the Tour de France is a demonstration of survival. The arduousness of the race, the sheer unreasonableness of the job, the circumnavigation of an entire country on a bicycle, village to village, along its shores, across its bridges, up and over the mountain peaks, requires a matchless stamina. It’s not unlike the stamina of people who are ill every day. The Tour is a daily festival of human suffering, of minor tragedies and comedies, all conducted in the elements, sometimes terrible weather and sometimes fine, over flats, and into headwinds, with plenty of crashes. And it’s three weeks long. Think about what you were doing three weeks ago. It feels like last year. The race is very much like living - except that its consequences are less dire and there’s a prize at the end. Life is not so neat.

I survived and made a successful comeback as a cyclist in 1999, but that was more of a beginning than an end. I was a success story - for the moment. But each time I visited a hospital I had an uneasy reaction. The first thing that struck me was the smell. If I did a smell test I could find a hospital with my eyes closed: disinfectant, medicine, bad cafeteria food, and recycled air through old vents, stale and artificial. And the lighting: a leaky radiant, it made everyone look pale, like they didn’t have quite enough blood in their bodies. The sounds were artificial and grating: the squeak of the nurses’ rubber-soled shoes, the sound of the hospital mattresses. A hospital mattress is covered with plastic and I remembered how it felt and sounded as I shifted in the bed, crackle, crackle, wrinkle, wrinkle.

These issues fell under the title ‘survivorship’, a curious post traumatic state of being I was experiencing. Survivorship, I decided, should be the core of the foundation I’d launched. The Lance Armstrong Foundation was to be a place where people could come for information of the most personal and practical kind, a place where you could call or email us and get advice or a greeting card, or a place just to be heard.

LANCE ARMSTRONG

**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.

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You will be assessed on the quality of your Writing.

- 3** Life is full of challenges, whether to do with work, sport, personal achievement or relationships.

Write an article which argues that it is better to fight and survive than to quit. *(27 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 2 Source: from, *Every Second Counts*, by Lance Armstrong, published by Yellow Jersey Press. Used by permission of The Random House Group Ltd.

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