

**1204/5H****Edexcel GCSE  
English B**

Paper 5H– Non-fiction (unseen)

**Higher Tier****Materials required for the  
examination**

Answer Booklet (AB12)

**Items included with these question  
papers**

One insert

**Instructions to Candidates**

---

In the boxes on the answer book, write your centre number, candidate number, subject titles, the paper reference, your signature, your surname and other names.

This paper contains three sections: Section A: Non-fiction, Section B: Write to argue, persuade, advise and Section C: Write to analyse, review, comment.

**Answer the question in Section A, one question from Section B and one question from Section C.**

**Information for Candidates**

---

Each question will be marked out of 25.

You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation for your answers.

**Advice to Candidates**

---

Additional answer sheets may be used.

## Section A: Unprepared Non-fiction

**You must answer the question from this section.  
You should spend about 40 minutes on this question.**

**1.**

Read *The Conquest of Everest*. How does the writer convey the importance of what the two climbers achieved?

You should comment on:

- the writer's choice of detail and language
- the actions and feelings of those waiting for news
- the reactions of Hillary and Tensing.

Support your answer with examples from the text.

**Total for Section A: 25 marks**

---

## Section B: Writing to argue, persuade, advise

**Answer ONE question from this section.  
You should spend about 40 minutes on this question.**

**EITHER**

**2a.**

Write a letter inviting a friend to join you on a physically demanding holiday or expedition. Your letter should convince your friend of the appeal of the trip.

**OR**

**2b.**

“Taking part in dangerous activities is selfish and irresponsible.”

Write a speech for a classroom discussion **for** or **against** this point of view.

**Total for Section B: 25 marks**

---

## **Section C: Writing to analyse, review, comment**

**Answer ONE question from this section.  
You should spend about 40 minutes on this question.**

**EITHER**

**3a.**

Think of an occasion when you felt a sense of achievement. Comment on the importance of this occasion, reflecting on the lessons you learnt from it.

**OR**

**3b.**

It has been suggested that your school should offer a wider range of sports such as canoeing, rollerblading or horse-riding. Write an article for a school magazine in which you examine the advantages and disadvantages of broadening the curriculum in this way.

**Total for Section C: 25 marks**

---

**END**

*Unprepared passage printed on the examination paper*

**The Conquest of Everest, 29 May 1953**

James (Jan) Morris

***The successful 1953 Everest expedition was led by Sir John Hunt and approached the 29,002-foot-high peak from Nepal. Previous climbers had approached from Tibet.***

It was a day for great news. Here in the camp on the north side of the Cwm there was already yesterday morning a tension, nerve-racking and yet deliciously exciting. At 9 a.m. on the previous day, 29 May, the two summit climbers had been seen by their support group, Gregory, Lowe, and a Sherpa, already crossing the South Summit at about 28,500 feet, and going strongly up the final ridge.

The weather had been perfect, the gales of the preceding days which had so ravaged Cam VII on the South Col had died down. Hillary and Tensing were known to be two of the most powerful climbers in the world, and were using the well-tested open-circuit oxygen equipment.

Because of these several encouraging factors, hopes at Camp IV were dangerously high, and the feeling of taut nerves and suppressed wild convictions was immeasurably strengthened when, just before lunch, five tiny figures were seen making their way across the traverse at the top of the face of Lhotse. They could only be the summit team and their supporters from the South Col. They were moving fast, and in three hours they would be in the Cwm. The map was now alive with stinging expectation. Here in the camp Colonel Hunt sat on a wooden packing case, physically immobile, his waterproof hat jammed hard over his head, his face white with plastered glacier cream. Four or five of the climbers vacantly fingered newspapers in the big pyramid tent. One man sat outside with binoculars reporting the progress of the descending party.

“They must be getting to Camp VI,” the watchers said. “They are hidden behind that serac (ice-pinnacle) with the vertical crack in it – you know the one.” “Two of them are sitting down; now they are up again.” “Only another hour to wait. What are the odds?” At last, soon after 1.30, just as the radio was announcing the reported failure of the assault, the party emerged above a rise in the ground 300 yards or so above the camp, their blue windproof jackets sharp and cheerful against the glistening snow. Hillary and Tensing were leading. All at once it was through the camp by the magic wireless of excitement that Everest had been climbed.

There was a sudden rush up the snow slope in the sunshine to meet the assault party. Hillary, looking extraordinarily fresh, raised his ice axe in greeting. Tensing slipped sideways in the snow and smiled, and in a trice they were surrounded. Hands were wrung ecstatically, photographs taken, there was the whirr of the cine camera, and laughter interrupted congratulations.

Hillary and Tensing, by now old climbing colleagues, posed with arms interlocked, Hillary's face aglow but controlled, Tensing's split with a brilliant smile of pleasure. As the group moved down the hill into the camp a band of Sherpas came diffidently forward to pay tribute to the greatest climber of them all. Like a modest monarch, Tensing received their greeting. Some bent their bodies forward, their hands clasped as in prayer. Some shook hands lightly and delicately, the fingers scarcely touching. One veteran, his pigtail flowing, bowed to touch Tensing's hand with his forehead.

In the pyramid tent, over an omelette served on an aluminium plate, Hillary told the story of the final climb. It was at 11.30 a.m., 29 May 1953, that they stepped at last on to the snow-covered final eminence of Everest.

Hillary describes this as "a symmetrical, beautiful snow-cone summit" – very different from the harsh rock ridge which is all that can be seen from below. The view was not spectacular. They were too high for good landscape, and all below looked flat and monotonous.

To the north the route to the summit on which pre-war Everest expeditions pinned their hopes looked in its upper reaches prohibitively steep. Tensing spent the fifteen minutes on the summit eating mint cake and taking photographs, for which purpose Hillary removed his oxygen mask without ill effects. Tensing produced a string of miscellaneous flags and held them high, while Hillary photographed them. They included the Union Jack, the Nepal flag, and that of the United Nations. Tensing, who is a devout Buddhist, also laid on the ground in offering some sweets, bars of chocolate, and packets of biscuits.