

**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION**

2431/01

ENGLISH (Specification 1900)

**Unit 1 Non-Fiction, Media and Information
(Foundation Tier)**

TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2009: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

8 page Answer Booklet

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer ALL the questions.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- SECTION A is worth 42 marks. You are advised to spend NO MORE THAN 1 HOUR 10 MINUTES on it.
- SECTION B is worth 21 marks. You are advised to spend NO MORE THAN 35 MINUTES on it.
- The total number of marks for this paper is 63.

SECTION A

You are advised to spend **NO MORE THAN 1 HOUR 10 MINUTES** on Section A.

READING: NON-FICTION

Read this passage carefully and then **ANSWER QUESTIONS 1(a), (b) AND (c)**.

These answers will be marked for reading. Plan your answers and write them carefully.

DEATH OF A GREAT RACEHORSE

Desert Orchid, one of the greatest racehorses of all time, died on Monday 13th November 2006, aged 27. The legendary grey, known affectionately as Dessie, passed away peacefully in his stable at Newmarket, just before dawn.

5

He was a firm favourite of the Royal Family and took part in a pageant to mark the Queen Mother's 100th birthday. The Queen was among his host of fans, as was Princess Anne, who rode him in a charity event in 1992.

10

Dessie spent the last fifteen years of his life in retirement, but his place in the public affection has never faded. His ashes were scattered at Kempton Park racecourse in Middlesex – scene of many of his greatest triumphs. A life-size statue stands near the course's parade ring and on 27th December 2006 a race named after Desert Orchid was run for the first time.

15

David Elsworth, his trainer, summed up why he was one of the most popular horses in history: “He was a great ambassador for racing. His enthusiasm, his style of running and his colour all combined to make him a great public favourite.” 20

His greatest triumph came when a crowd of 58,000 cheered him to victory in the 1989 Cheltenham Gold Cup – recently voted the greatest race of all time. Jockey Simon Sherwood said: “I’ve never known a horse so brave.” Dessie won the King George VI steeplechase a record four times between 1986 and 1990. 25
30

Yet his astonishing success came from humble beginnings. At that time, billionaires would pay five or ten million dollars for the best-bred foals. James Burridge, a Leicestershire farmer, bought Dessie’s grandmother for hunting for £175 from a farmer near Newark. When she was old, he bred from her, but her first two foals died. The third, a little filly named Flower Child, survived. When she bore Dessie in 1979, no-one gave him a chance, as they did not rate his father, Grey Mirage, and had not heard of his mother, Flower Child. 35
40

Then, in a glorious eight-year career from 1983 to 1991, he won 34 races from 71 starts and collected £654,000 in prize money. This was a record at that time.

Former champion jockey Richard Dunwoody, who rode Dessie to victory in seven races, said: “He was the best horse I ever rode.” One of Desert Orchid’s owners, Midge Burridge, said: “His fan club spread around the world. They all absolutely adored him. t’s terribly sad for all of them.” 45

by David Pilditch, ‘Daily Express’, 14th November 2006

- 1 (a) Where did Desert Orchid die?
[2 marks]
- (b) FROM PARAGRAPH THREE, beginning ‘Dessie spent...’, give THREE ways in which Desert Orchid has been honoured at Kempton Park racecourse.
[3 marks]
- (c) From your reading of the passage, what qualities and achievements gave Desert Orchid his reputation as a great racehorse?

USE YOUR OWN WORDS as far as possible.
DO NOT REPEAT POINTS made in 1(a) and 1(b).
[16 marks]

[Total 21 marks]

TURN OVER FOR THE REMAINDER OF SECTION A

READING: MEDIA TEXT

Read this newspaper article, written just after the death of the racehorse, Desert Orchid, in November, 2006.

Then **ANSWER QUESTION 2.**

This answer will be marked for reading. Plan your answer and write it carefully.

GOODBYE, GLORIOUS GREY



White lightning: Desert Orchid shows his power and fluency as he comfortably clears a fence during a steeplechase. The jockey is crouched over the horse's neck.

Has any horse in history ever had more owners than Desert Orchid? When he leapt to the front at Kempton – as he did every Boxing Day, it seemed, since time and racing began – millions of people felt the same surge of joy, the same pride of ownership.

When he died quietly and with dignity on 13th November 2006, at the age of 27, Desert Orchid had captured the world’s imagination as no other horse had done before or since. He was not only a grey and instantly recognisable; he also had limitations. He aroused tenderness and concern as well as imagination.

TRIBUTES

Tributes flowed with tears the day after his death. They were led by David Elsworth, who trained Desert Orchid throughout his glamorous career. “Everyone will miss him,” he said. “Our sympathy goes to his adoring public, to the 5,000 members of his fan club.”

VERSATILITY

Desert Orchid’s legend grew. He was always a front-runner who showed uncommon ability over a range of distances. Two-mile sprint races and lung-burning tests of stamina: nothing could faze this steeplechase icon with the courage to match his talent.

GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT

He was never happy jumping “left-handed”, as racing people say, – that is to say, on an anti-clockwise course. He made clockwise Kempton his own special place, and won the King George VI Chase four times. But the counter-clockwise Cheltenham was an infinitely tougher task for him, and his victory in the Cheltenham Gold Cup of 1989 was his greatest achievement.

Before the race, it rained and snowed all night. The ground was a quagmire. Desert Orchid hated the mud, wind and cold. But he did not know how to give up. He battled on, giving everything he had, though over the final fence he was second, behind the mud-loving horse, Yahoo. But, driven on by his unconquerable spirit, he forced himself towards the line and won by a length and a half. It was an awesome sporting achievement. His rider, Simon Sherwood, said: “He hated every step of the way, and dug as deep as he could go.”

LOVE AFFAIR

By this time, the national love affair with Desert Orchid was so huge and widespread that his owner daren’t let him risk his life in the Grand National. The danger of the high fences would have been too much for the nation to bear. Love had grown too deep.

BRILLIANCE

In an age of sporting mediocrity, he stood for everything that was most inspiring, not just about horseracing, but about sport and life itself – resilience, courage, flair, brilliance and a savage determination to win his races.

With Desert Orchid, non-horsey people suddenly saw the point. They saw a beautiful, courageous, powerful, athletic, charismatic individual; and everyone felt the same rush of pride in ownership.

Adapted from an article by Simon Barnes, ‘The Times’, 14th November 2006.

**2 How does the writer celebrate the qualities of Desert Orchid?
[21 marks]**

In your answer, you should write about:

- (a) the PRESENTATION of the article**
- (b) what everyone admired about the horse**
- (c) the WORDS and PHRASES chosen by the writer.**

SECTION B

You are advised to spend **NO MORE THAN 35 MINUTES** on Section B.

Writing to INFORM, EXPLAIN, DESCRIBE

This answer will be marked for writing. Plan your answer and write it carefully.

Leave enough time to check through what you have written.

3 **DESCRIBE** an occasion when you were impressed by someone's behaviour.

EXPLAIN what you learned from this experience.
[21 marks]

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