

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

2431/01

ENGLISH (Specification 1900)

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

MONDAY 10 JANUARY 2011: Morning

DURATION: 1 hour 45 minutes

SUITABLE FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED CANDIDATES

Candidates answer on the answer booklet.

OCR SUPPLIED MATERIALS:

**8 page answer booklet
(sent with general stationery)**

OTHER MATERIALS REQUIRED:

None

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces provided on the answer booklet. Please write clearly and in capital letters.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully. Make sure 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.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

- Do not send this question paper for marking; it should be retained in the centre or destroyed.

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SECTION A

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

READING: NON-FICTION

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

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

BALANCE OF NATURE



A puffin with its beak full of sand-eels

Here are two ways of causing damage. Throw a beaker of water into your computer. Insert a hair into your watch. Then look at what you've done. The watch will have stopped, and the computer will be ruined.

5

A computer and a watch are complicated pieces of equipment; water and a hair are very simple. The fact is, it doesn't take much to spoil a complicated thing. A complicated system is an easy target for a simple form of destruction.

10

Now for something far more complicated than a computer or a watch. It's called the balance of Nature. Rabbits eat grass and prevent a meadow becoming a wood. Meadow and rabbits support a fox. The grass continues to grow, the rabbits to breed, and the fox can take his share of rabbits without destroying the balance of Nature.

15

Over the past 25 years, the temperature of the North Sea has risen by one degree Centigrade. Not much, is it? Try it in your bath. Jump in: lovely, perfect, just how you like it. Add a cupful of cold water. Notice any difference? No. It's still perfect. A degree up or down is nothing.

20

But you on your own are not as complicated as the balance of Nature. In the North Sea, the one degree rise has had a remarkable effect on the plankton – tiny, microscopic organisms that live in the sea. It has meant that the plankton have moved northwards as the sea water has warmed. Big deal, I hear you say. But listen, listen; it affects the sand-eels. You may not care much for sand-eels, little silver fish the length of your finger, but the fact that the plankton

25

30

have gone means that the newly-hatched sand-eels have nothing to eat. So, they die, never growing into big sand-eels, never becoming sand-eel parents. Huge shoals of sand-eels used to be food for larger fish like cod, and for sea mammals. **35**

The North Sea has become empty of sand-eels, and this is a disaster for kittiwakes (small seagulls) and puffins. These birds depend on sand-eels for food. Without sand-eels, they cannot raise any chicks. Large colonies of seabirds in Orkney, Shetland and the great bird reserve at Bempton cliffs in Yorkshire have been affected. Birds are breeding late or not at all. Chicks are starving on the cliff ledges, and all because the water is very slightly warmer than it used to be. The disappearance of the sand-eels has meant mass starvation for the kittiwakes and puffins. The figures for breeding failure almost defy belief. 16,700 pairs of kittiwakes and 900,000 puffins have raised hardly a handful of chicks in recent years. **40**
45
50

The spectacular seabird populations of the Northern Isles are of enormous value to Orkney and Shetland tourism, attracting many visitors. The disaster of these seabirds is just a taste of what lies ahead. **55**

- 1 (a) From PARAGRAPH ONE, (beginning ‘Here are two ways...’), what TWO actions will have bad results? [1]
- (b) From PARAGRAPH THREE, (beginning ‘Now for something...’), write down TWO things in Nature which foxes depend on for survival. [2]
- (c) From PARAGRAPH SIX, (beginning ‘The North Sea has become...’), which TWO species of bird have no food because the sand-eels have died? [2]
- (d) In lines 24–55 (‘But you on your own...’ to end of article), what problems does the writer say have followed the one degree rise in the temperature of the North Sea?

USE YOUR OWN WORDS as far as possible. [16]

TURN OVER FOR THE REMAINDER OF SECTION A

READING: MEDIA TEXT

Read this newspaper article about the increasing problem of the seagull populations of many inland towns and cities. Then ANSWER QUESTION 2.

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

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBOURS



A seagull invasion of inland Britain

They're noisy, filthy, greedy and violent, and they're moving into a street near you. No, they're not hooligans, but the seagulls invading Britain's inland towns in their thousands.

THREAT

For some years now, gulls have been leaving the coast, the sea and the wild places, and occupying our towns. This is no trifling matter. Herring gulls – the species most British people call 'seagulls' – are enormous birds. With a wing span of four and a half feet, a heavy body, a flight speed of sixty mph and savagely destructive talons, each

bird is an impressive threat, as it hurtles through the sky. Physical attacks on humans by dive-bombing are rare, but do happen.

The ear-splitting noise of them all shrieking at once and the mess their droppings make on rooftops, pavements, cars and windows make a flock of seagulls a fearsome prospect.

OVERRUN

Peter Rock, a scientist and expert on urban seagulls, has been warning of their increase for some time. They began breeding on rooftops in the 1920s. By 1970 there were still only sixty pairs nesting on buildings throughout the country, but Peter Rock thinks we could soon be overrun: 'Three years ago, I estimated that we had 150,000 pairs of gulls nesting on rooftops in Britain and Ireland. By 2015, we could have over a million pairs.'

ADAPTING

To a seagull, a city is a very attractive place to be. Where we see the grey rise and fall of concrete hotel buildings, industrial units and Victorian crescents, bounded by roads and bypasses, the gulls see soaring cliffs and islands. Georgian chimney stacks? Great for nest building. Flat roofs? Lovely. With chippings or pebbles? Fantastic – it couldn't be more like the sea.

PROBLEMS

To those for whom thousands of gulls have become unwelcome neighbours, noise is the greatest nuisance. Seagulls' squawking begins at 4 a.m. and it is not possible to sleep through it.

Mess from droppings is another slippery, smelly and unpleasant side-effect. Being strongly alkaline, it is corrosive and eats through paintwork on buildings and cars.

The third problem is damage. They rip open plastic bin-bags and scatter their contents as they scavenge for food. On rooftops, they smash air conditioning, and pull away roofing materials.

BANQUET

Gulls began moving inland partly because, after the Clean Air Act of 1956, household waste, instead of being burnt, went to landfill. A rubbish dump may be unsightly to us, but it is a banquet for seagulls. They need only 150g of food a day, and while it might take seven or eight hours to find that in the wild, at a landfill site they can satisfy their appetite in a matter of minutes.

FOR EVER

Peter Rock warns that there will be no let-up. Gulls used to bother us only during the five summer months of their breeding season, but many now stay in Britain during the winter, too. They may be unwelcome tenants, but it seems the urban gulls are here to stay. Once settled in, gulls never leave the towns and cities. They stay there for a very long time; the average seagull lives for twenty years. Until a solution is found, our neighbourhoods will never be the same again.

[Below the title, a large colour picture shows a seagull flying towards the camera, wings outspread.]

2 How does the article set out to convince you that seagulls in towns and cities are a serious problem? [21]

In your answer, you should write about:

the PRESENTATION of the article

the INFORMATION the writer selects

the WORDS and PHRASES chosen by the writer.

TURN OVER FOR SECTION B

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 Write the words of a talk to your class entitled ‘What annoys me most’.**

DESCRIBE what annoys you and EXPLAIN why. [21]



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