

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Information and Ideas (Foundation Tier)

A680/01/RBI

READING BOOKLET INSERT

Wednesday 15 June 2011

Afternoon

Duration: 2 hours



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- The materials in this READING BOOKLET INSERT are for use with the questions in Section A of the question paper.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

INSTRUCTION TO EXAMS OFFICER/INVIGILATOR

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

TEXT A

The Krakatoa Volcanic Eruption



Over the island of Krakatoa in the Pacific Ocean looms a great volcano.

The eruption of this volcano in 1883 was a major world disaster. The entire island of Krakatoa was blown apart, and the resulting tsunami (a huge tidal wave) killed tens of thousands of people on other islands nearby.

Before the 1883 eruption, the volcanic mountain reached a height of 800 metres above sea level. The slopes of the mountain were covered with green vegetation, and it was a notable landmark to sailors passing the island.

In June 1883 small volcanic eruptions began to rumble across the island. The activity kept accelerating, and finally, on August 27, 1883, four massive eruptions came from the volcano.

Local effects

The final eruption was colossal. Not only was the island of Krakatoa shattered, other small islands were created.

Sailors in the area reported astounding events associated with the volcanic eruption. The sound was loud enough to burst the eardrums of some crewmen on ships many miles away. Chunks of pumice, or solidified lava, rained from the sky, pelting the ocean and the decks of ships.

The tsunamis set off by the volcano rose as high as 40 metres, and slammed into the coastlines of the nearby islands of Java and Sumatra. Entire settlements were wiped away, and it is estimated that 36,000 people died.

Distant effects

The sound of the massive volcanic eruption travelled enormous distances across the ocean. On Diego Garcia, an island in the Indian Ocean more than 2,000 miles from Krakatoa, the sound was clearly heard. Even as far away as Australia, people reported hearing the explosion.

Pieces of pumice were light enough to float, and weeks after the eruption large pieces began drifting in with the tides along the coast of Madagascar, an island thousands of miles away off the east coast of Africa. Some of the large pieces had animal and human skeletons embedded in them. They were grisly reminders of Krakatoa.

A world event

Following the eruption of the volcano, the area near Krakatoa was enveloped in a strange darkness, as sunlight was blocked by dust blasted into the atmosphere. Winds in the upper atmosphere carried the dust great distances, and people on the other side of the world began to notice the effect. Sea captains reported seeing sunrises that were green, and sunsets around the world turned a vivid blood-red in the months following the eruption.

TEXT B



PARALYSED BY THE VOLCANO

**Gigantic ash cloud
engulfs skies and
grounds EVERY
plane in Britain
– and it could
last for days**

FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 2010

DARK and menacing, this is the giant cloud of volcanic ash that paralysed air travel in Britain yesterday. As experts warned of days of chaos, health officials told those with conditions such as asthma to stay indoors.

In an awesome demonstration of nature's power, every plane will be grounded until the wind stops blowing debris towards Britain from a volcano 700 miles away in Iceland.

Some experts said there could be disruption for six months from the 'invisible menace' which covers northern Europe. The unprecedented lockdown has already caused the greatest chaos to air travel since the Second World War.

The day of volcanic ash saw:

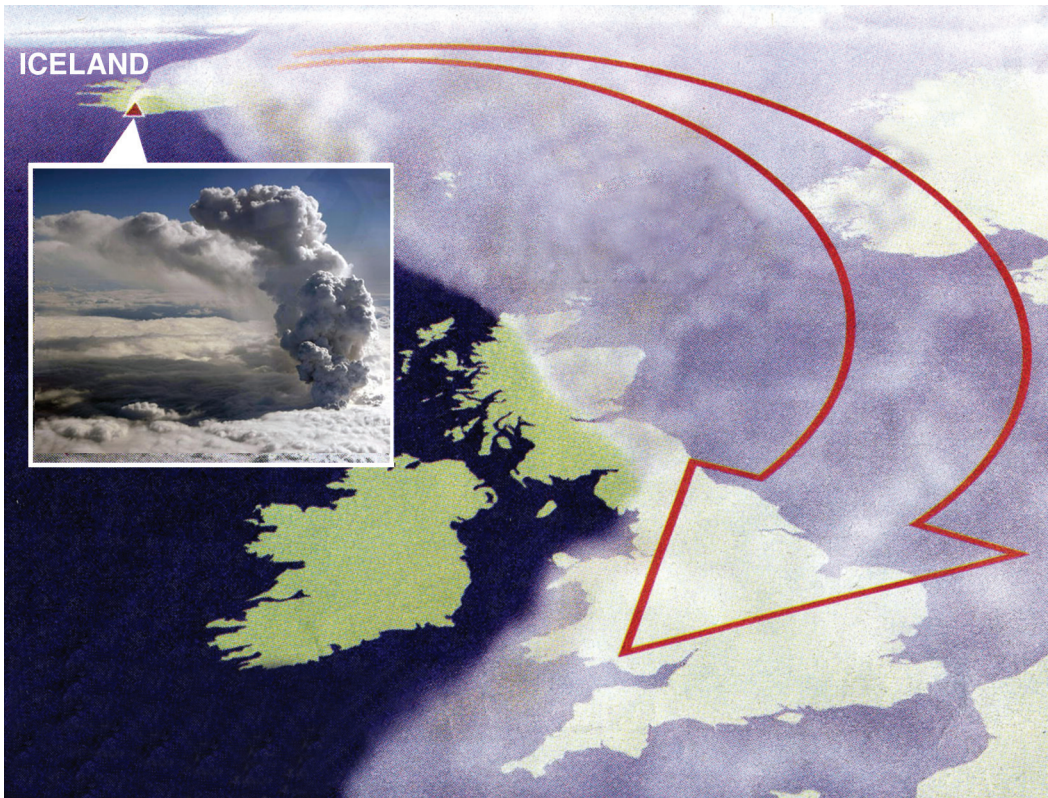
- All UK airports and many across northern Europe closed;

- Hundreds of thousands of frustrated passengers stranded;
- A multi-million-pound bill in lost business for British industry.

HEALTH CHIEFS ISSUE ALERT

The Health Protection Agency said the ash will cause itchy eyes, a runny nose, sore throat or dry mouth when the particles land. Those with bronchitis and asthma were advised to stay inside because the ash could seriously inflame their conditions.

The ash, which will drift down from the north of the country, was predicted to appear as a dusty haze and may smell of sulphur or rotten eggs.



Throughout yesterday the ash cloud was carried south and east over Europe by the prevailing winds.

Reports from Iceland said the eruption spewing ash into the atmosphere from Mount Eyjafjallokull showed no sign of subsiding after almost two days of activity.

Even if the current eruption subsides within days, it may not be the end of the travel chaos that the volcano can cause. In a blanket move, air traffic controllers were forced to completely close British airspace at midday yesterday as the volcano pumped massive clouds of ash thousands of feet into the air.

The huge dust cloud, invisible from the ground, slowly drifted across northern Europe at the height that jets cruise across the skies.

The volcanic ash contains tiny particles of rock and even glass which, when sucked into an aircraft's jet engines, can potentially cause them to fail.

MISERY FOR MILLIONS

While skies above the UK remained clear but eerily quiet, with runways emptied and planes grounded, the air lockdown – the first in living memory – meant misery for millions.

More than 500,000 passengers a day fly in and out of the UK on around 5,300 flights, and hundreds of thousands of travellers were left stranded abroad as they planned to return from their Easter breaks.

Amid all the chaos, however, there was one upside, with weather experts predicting that the particles in the atmosphere could cause some spectacular sunsets over the coming days.

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