

**GCSE ENGLISH/ ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

A680  
Foundation Tier  
Practice Papers

Based on January 2011 Legacy paper reading materials

These questions papers have been provided as a resource for preparing your students for the GCSE English / English language '**Information and Ideas**' examination paper. There are two Foundation tier, and two Higher tier resources.

Reading materials from the legacy GCSE 'Non-fiction, Media and Information' paper have been used, with revised questions set using the format of the new GCSE English / English language examination (from 2010).

These materials are designed to provide additional teaching resources, and do not have the same status as Sample Assessment materials or new specification Past Papers, that can be found on the OCR website and Interchange.

Mark schemes are not provided, as the resource is intended for teaching and learning purposes, rather than providing a summative assessment. The generic parts of the mark schemes for Past Papers will provide appropriate guidance for formative assessment.

**A680 New specification style questions on legacy papers**

**January 2011 Legacy paper – Foundation tier**

Answer **all** the questions in Section A and **one** question in Section B

**Section A: Non-Fiction and Media**

You are advised to spend about one hour on this section.

**Question 1**

Read carefully *Balance of Nature*. Then answer questions 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d. These questions will be marked for reading.

**1 (a)** From **paragraph one** (beginning 'Here are two ways...') give two ways of causing damage.

First way:

(1)

Second way:

(1)

**(b)** From **paragraph three** (beginning 'Now for something...'), write down two things in nature which foxes depend on for survival.

First thing:

(1)

Second thing:

(1)

**(c)** From **paragraph six** (beginning ‘The North Sea has become...’), which two species of bird have no food because the sand-eels have died?

Species one:

(1)

Species two:

(1)

**(d)** Re-read the passage from **paragraph five** (beginning ‘But you on your own...’) to **the end** of the passage (‘...what lies ahead’).

Using **your own words as far as possible**, outline what problems the writer says have followed the one degree rise in the temperature of the North Sea.

(14)

## Question 2

Read carefully *Meet Your New Neighbours*. Then answer questions 2a and 2b. These questions will be marked for reading.

**2 (a)** In what ways do the headings, sub-headings and picture contribute to the impact of the newspaper article?

(6)

**2(b)** How does the article tries to convince you that seagulls in towns and cities are a serious problem?

In your answer you should write about

- Information used in the article
- Some of the words and phrases used in the article

Do **NOT** write about the headings or picture in your answer.

(14)

### **Section B: Writing**

You are advised to spend about 50 minutes on this section.

**Answer one question. Write the number of the question you have chosen at the top of your answer.**

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

**Leave enough time to check through what you have written.**

#### **Either**

**3.** Write the words of a talk to your class entitled 'What annoys me most'. Describe what annoys you and explain why.

(40)

#### **Or**

**4.** You have been asked to write an article for your school magazine.

The topic of the article is 'Protecting our local environment – why it matters, and what you can do to help.'



# **READING MATERIALS**

## Balance of Nature

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.

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. 5

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. 10

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.



A puffin with its beak full of sand-eels

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 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. 15 20

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 Bampton 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. 25

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 30

# 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 project.

### 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 4am. 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 a landfill. A rubbish dump may be unsightly to us, but 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 appetite in a matter of minutes.

### Forever

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 seem 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.





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