

150/06

**ENGLISH**  
**HIGHER TIER**  
**PAPER 2**

A.M. THURSDAY, 10 November 2005

(2 Hours)

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A 12 page answer book.

Resource Material for use with Section A.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 50 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 35 minutes

Q. B2 – about 35 minutes

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

## SECTION A: 40 marks

Answer **all** the following questions.

*The Resource Material for use with Section A is a leaflet entitled 'The Alnwick Garden'.*

*The article opposite 'How to spend £15 million on a garden' was written by Rachel Cooke and appeared in The Telegraph just before the garden opened.*

**Look at the first three paragraphs of Rachel Cooke's article 'How to spend £15 million on a garden' on the opposite page.**

**A1.** What were the various reactions to the Duchess of Northumberland and her garden project? [10]

**Now consider the whole of Rachel Cooke's article.**

**A2.** What impressions of the Duchess of Northumberland does Rachel Cooke create in her article? How does she create these impressions? [10]

**Now look at the leaflet 'The Alnwick Garden' in the separate Resource Material.**

**A3.** How does this leaflet try to attract visitors to The Alnwick Garden?

Think about:

- the presentation;
- the content;
- the choice of words.

[10]

**To answer this question you must look at both texts.**

**A4.** Using information from both texts, explain why tourists might choose to visit The Alnwick Garden. [10]

## How to spend £15 million on a garden

In 1996 the Duchess of Northumberland, Jane Percy, announced that a splendid, but hugely expensive, garden would be created in the grounds of Alnwick Castle, the stronghold of the Percy family since the middle ages. The garden would be a haven for adults and a playground for children, including educational facilities. It would bring visitors to the town and boost the local economy.

Jane's husband, Ralph, set up a charitable trust and handed over £5 million of family money to set her on her way; Tim Smit, the driving force behind the Eden Project in Cornwall, gave his blessing; and the Prince of Wales agreed to be the project's patron. The locals, however, were less than impressed. Who, they chorused, does she think she is – Marie Antoinette?

On the way to my hotel in Alnwick, the taxi driver filled me in. He said the Duke and Duchess believed they just had to click their fingers and everyone else would come running – even the local water board. Some months before, the town's high street had been dug up so that the castle's water supply could be improved (fountains will feature prominently in the garden). Several businesses complained that passing trade fell, and so did takings. For a town getting back on its feet after the foot and mouth crisis, it was hard to bear. The man who put me up for the night, however, had a different story. The Duchess's garden would, he insisted, do the town nothing but good. He was about to add more bedrooms in readiness for all those who would come to see the garden. Jane Percy was, he said, a decent, determined woman with few airs and graces. "You'll like her," he added, giving me a stern, protective look. "It's hard not to."

As it turned out, he was right. I went to Alnwick feeling cynical; I came away planning to visit again. The Duchess is still largely surrounded by mud and men in hard hats, but she has the look of a woman with a hunch that she is about to be vindicated. She defies anyone not to fall in love with the garden when it is complete, however disapproving they may have been in the past.

"I suspect it's human nature for people to be critical," she says as we stand in the garden, mugs of tea in our hands and ready to put on fluorescent workmen's jackets. She has a girlish voice and a self-deprecating manner; she prefers combat pants to tweeds, and her Geordie workmen all call her Jane.

"I suspect, too, that I'm always going to be a target," she continues. "It's very character-building. I suppose I should try to win the critics round, but actually I can't be bothered. It's not my garden. I'd be a bit pathetic if I was building this huge thing just for myself."

Jane Percy, daughter of an Edinburgh stockbroker, never expected to be a duchess, nor to live in a medieval fortress sufficiently large and gloomy to be chosen to play the part of Hogwarts in the Harry Potter films. Her husband inherited his vast estate unexpectedly on the death of his older brother. Ralph and Jane, who had met as teenagers, were living in a farmhouse with their four children. "It was difficult for me to leave the farmhouse but we knew we had a duty to Alnwick," says Jane, the first Percy duchess from outside the ranks of the aristocracy. "The trouble was, the castle was like a cross between a hospital and a museum. It didn't seem like a home at all."

To help ease the transition, the Duke suggested that his wife should take charge of the garden, but the Duchess has been dogged by criticism from those who failed to see why the Percys did not fund the whole thing themselves. She has had to remind her critics that the family do not have unlimited cash. She says, perhaps not sounding too convincing, "We still have the same worries about our credit card bills as anyone else."

The Duchess is quick to remind me that any profits will go straight back into the project. "The family can't make a penny out of the garden. We can't even get our original 5 million pounds back."

Her project is the most ambitious garden to be created in Europe for a century, and tomorrow is the day when all her ambitions will be put to the test. The designers have gathered together 65,000 hardy plants to cope with the cold Northumbrian climate, but the central theme is water. As the Duchess puts it, visitors will see 250,000 gallons of the stuff 'going absolutely bananas'. The cascade – a technological miracle – is the central feature and she says, "I have this nightmare that we'll press a button and 250,000 gallons of water will rush down the cascade, fail to stop at the bottom, and drown everyone and everything in their path."

## SECTION B: 40 marks

*Answer Question B1 and Question B2.*

*In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.  
Take special care with handwriting, spelling, punctuation and layout.*

*Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.*

*A guide to the amount you should write is given with each question.*

- B1.** Write a letter to your local council, persuading them to support a project to improve your area. [20]

*The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.*

- B2.** It has been proposed that the legal age for buying alcohol should be reduced from eighteen to sixteen.

Write an article for a teenage magazine exploring the advantages and disadvantages of this proposal. [20]

*The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.*

WELSH JOINT EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
General Certificate of Secondary Education



CYD-BWYLLGOR ADDYSG CYMRU  
Tystysgrif Gyffredinol Addysg Uwchradd

150/06-A

**ENGLISH**

**HIGHER TIER**

**PAPER 2**

A.M. THURSDAY, 10 November 2005

**Resource Material for use with Section A**



**The Alnwick Garden will support local business, strengthen tourism links for Alnwick and be self-financing, to secure the long term future of the garden.**



The Alnwick Garden will form one of the region's most enduring and inspiring attractions and is open for 364 days of the year. The 11th century castle, nearby home to the Percy family since 1309, is open during the summer months.

Alnwick town itself has a number of attractions, including the Playhouse Theatre, the Alnwick Town Museum and the House of Hardy Fishing Museum. The town is close to the Scottish border and a number of ancient castles at Lindisfarne, Warkworth, Bamburgh and the ruins at Dunstanburgh. The Northumbrian coastline is one of the most beautiful in the country.

#### **A resource for education, horticulture and tourism**

The Alnwick Garden and its Woodland Walks, which lead from the adjacent car park, are just a short hop from the castle. Dogs are allowed on the Woodland Walks and drinking troughs are provided, but only guide dogs are permitted in the garden. The Garden Café caters for the hungry and thirsty, offering homemade fare throughout the day. Questions about the garden can be directed to the garden team and volunteers who will be pleased to give advice.

The second construction phase will start in the garden when funding is in place. The Alnwick Garden is a registered charity from which the Duchy receives no revenue. All finance from the garden will be used to sustain and develop the garden in the future, including educational projects.

#### **A place of beauty and learning, relevant to future generations as well as our own.**

Since the foot-and-mouth epidemic, much effort has been made to bring visitors back into the countryside. Everyone is welcome in the garden and, during summer months, picnics will be available to be enjoyed in the sunshine.

Please be patient and remember that this is a developing site and will remain so for some time to come. Access is managed for your safety and that of your family.

Take sensible footwear and outerwear and follow the designated routes, observing the instructions and signage along the way. Be prepared to be guided by the advice of garden staff or volunteers at any time and be aware that children should be supervised around the water features. Designated disabled car park spaces are available and there is seating throughout the garden. There is wheelchair access everywhere, but there is a gradient up to The Ornamental Garden. Note that access around the Grand Cascade is by a series of steps. There are first-class toilets just outside the garden walls near the Garden Café.

#### **Stimulate your senses ... expect the unexpected**

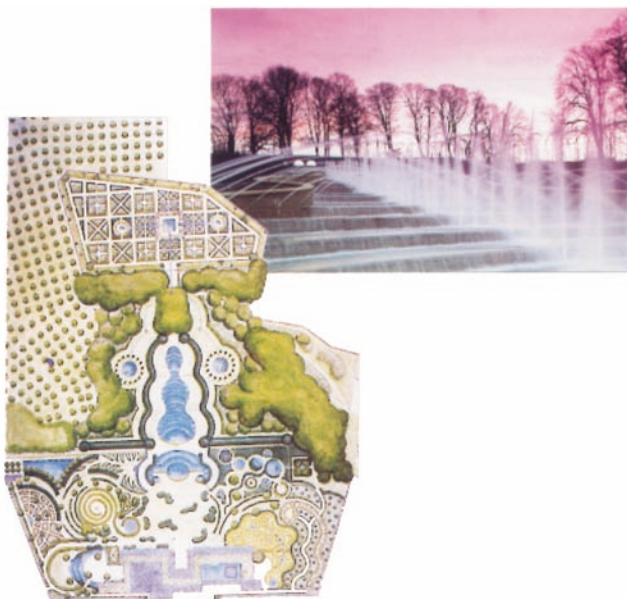
This will be a world-class garden to be used by everyone. Now is the time to visit and enjoy Phase One of this wonderful project which will appeal to everyone, young or old, the able bodied and the disabled.

Twelve acres of walled garden have been redesigned by Belgian family landscape designers, Wirtz International, to rival some of the greatest gardens in the world.

#### **We will recreate the glory and the spirit of the old garden, using the talent, expertise and technology of our time...**

The Alnwick Garden has been laid in the historic footprint of gardens dating back to the 18th century. It will be an eclectic mix of formality and informality. In addition to the Ornamental Garden, Rose Garden and water features, future plans include a Poison Garden, Garden of the Senses, Labyrinth and Serpent Garden.

The technology invested in The Grand Cascade is very 21st century, with computer programmes controlling the jets, fountains, rills, weirs and magnificent waterspouts. Up to 7,260 gallons of water per minute tumble down at peak flow and 120 separate jets are used to create the different display sequences.





How to get there...

**On foot:**

It can be accessed from the town on foot through Greenwell Lane.

**By train:**

The main GNER intercity rail service runs from London to Edinburgh via Newcastle and the border town of Berwick, stopping at Alnmouth, just five miles away from Alnwick.

**By boat and plane:**

Alnwick lies off the A1 trunk road between London and Edinburgh, which is 95 miles to the north. Newcastle is 35 miles to the south and, like Edinburgh, has an international airport and ferry links to Europe.

**By car or bus:**

Cars and coaches access the garden via the main entrance on Denwick Lane, Alnwick. There are also regular bus services from Newcastle to Alnwick.

**Where to stay:**

Click on the North East map on The Alnwick Garden website, [www.alnwickgarden.com](http://www.alnwickgarden.com) to check the website connections for places to stay in the region, or within the town.



THE ALNWICK  
GARDEN

Charges for the garden are as follows:

**£4.00** per person

**£3.50** per person for concessions

Child – 16 and under, **free** - when accompanied by an adult

Group – 14 or more, **£3.50** each

Group concessions - 14 or more - **£3.00** each

Educational visits - **£1.20** per child

Brochures are **£3.75**

The Alnwick Garden is open from 10am until 5pm or dusk, 364 days every year.



Visit the Alnwick Garden site on [www.alnwickgarden.com](http://www.alnwickgarden.com) or call 01665 511 133



This project has been part-financed by the European Regional Development Fund



The Alnwick Garden is a registered Charity

