



GCSE

150/02

**ENGLISH
FOUNDATION TIER
PAPER 2**

P.M. FRIDAY, 11 November 2011

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material for use with Section A.

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

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 factsheet about herring gulls.

The article on the opposite page, 'The rise of the urban seagull', is from a newspaper.

Look at the separate Herring Gull factsheet.

- A1.** (a) List **three** facts about the eggs of the herring gull. [3]
 (b) According to the factsheet, when does a herring gull act aggressively? [3]
 (c) List **three** foods that make up the natural diet of the herring gull. [3]
 (d) What is the law that protects herring gulls? [1]
- A2.** (a) According to the factsheet, what problems are caused by herring gulls? [5]
 (b) What advice does the factsheet give to deal with these problems? [5]

Now look at the newspaper article, 'The rise of the urban seagull', on the opposite page.

- A3.** How does the writer of this article try to convince you that seagulls have become a serious problem?

You should write about:

- what he says about seagulls;
- how he says it – the words and phrases he uses. [10]

To answer the next question you will need to look at both texts.

- A4.** These two texts are about herring gulls. Compare what the two texts say about herring gulls.

Organise your answer into two paragraphs under the following headings:

- herring gull attacks on people
- the size of the herring gull population. [10]

In your answer you must make it clear which text you get your information from.

The rise of the urban seagull

Seagulls are thriving in cities – attacking people, deafening residents, damaging buildings, spreading panic and disease. By 2014 there could be as many as 6 million of them, a new urban menace.

Herring gulls are huge birds, each one a kilo in weight, with a wingspan of 4½ ft. A thousand of them in the air together are a tonne of hardened muscle, and they possess vicious beaks and claws. The way things are heading, Britain's town centres are going to be overrun by an army of greedy and aggressive birds that will defend the rooftops against all-comers. They have already made headlines with their attacks on humans, whose heads they slash with their claws at 40mph. They are notorious for the way their cries keep people awake, and their droppings also cause damage to buildings and cars.

What began as a nuisance is becoming a much more serious problem. Fifty breeding pairs of herring gulls in a town are all it takes to make a huge impact, and many towns already have way beyond that. Because gulls now also live longer – 20-plus years is normal – it means populations are rocketing by 25% annually.

The RSPB argues that gulls do not attack people but only 'protect their nests'. The problem is that their nests are on the people's roofs. It is also untrue that gulls are only aggressive around their nesting sites. Any people with food in their hands – sandwiches, pasties, hamburgers, chips, ice creams – are targets for seagulls' beaks.

The NHS does not keep records of minor injuries, so it is impossible to know how many people have needed treatment after gull attacks. Local newspapers often have stories of postmen knocked from bicycles, householders terrorised, and scaffolders forced down their ladders. There has been at least one well-publicised death, of an 80-year-old man who was attacked and fell while trying to remove a gull's nest from his garage roof. He died of a heart attack. Last summer a woman was taken to hospital after being savaged at Burnham-on-Sea and, if reports are to be believed, at least one dog has been pecked to death.

Yet violence is not necessarily the worst problem. Gulls can start their noise as early as 4 a.m., and the slow torture of lack of sleep can affect people even more than the fear of a bloody head. Roofs and windows are plastered with droppings so alkaline that they eat through the paintwork of cars. Seagulls damage roof insulation, block gutters with their nests, and attack the contents of bins with the kind of wild energy that makes foxes look tidy. They are also blamed for spreading disease. The gull problem is not confined to Britain. From Norway to Portugal, every coastal country in Europe now reports an increase in roof-nesting gulls, as well as the USA, Canada and Australia.

*(from an article by Richard Girling
Reproduced by permission of The Sunday Times)*

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. The following is an extract from a letter which appeared in a national newspaper:

'Our towns and cities are under threat from wild birds and animals. Seagulls and pigeons are an increasing nuisance and cause damage and distress. Foxes come into towns for food, and are a danger to our domestic pets. We need strong measures to reduce and control these birds and animals. We must take strong action now!'

You may either agree or disagree with this point of view.

Write a letter to the newspaper giving your views on this issue.

[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. Your school or college has become concerned that students do not exercise enough, and has asked you to write a leaflet to persuade them to exercise more. The leaflet could include:

- reasons why exercise is important;
- what opportunities are available in school/college as well as locally.

You can also use other ideas that you think will help to persuade readers.

Write a leaflet to persuade young people to exercise more.

You may wish to indicate where you would use illustrations and what they would show, but you will be rewarded for the quality of your writing, not your illustrations. [20]

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Resource Material for use with Section A

HERRING GULLS: SOME FACTS

What are Herring Gulls?

Herring gulls are large, noisy gulls found all around our coasts, and also inland in our towns and cities. They have adapted very well to man's way of life, and they are the main scavengers around town and city rubbish dumps.

Internationally and in the UK, herring gull numbers are falling. The RSPB says that the UK herring gull population has declined by 40% since 1970. However, the RSPB says more birds are moving into towns because of a lack of food in their natural habitats. Here they cause problems by nesting on rooftops and cause lots of mess by searching for food in discarded rubbish bins.

Herring gulls build large nests out of vegetation. They lay 2 or 3 green eggs blotched with black. The eggs are laid from late April, taking about 25-33 days to incubate. When hatched, the young birds are fed by both parents for about a month. The adult herring gulls weigh about a kilogram. They have a wing span of almost five feet, and a very large beak.



Humans and Herring Gulls

Herring gulls are seen as a problem because they will dive and snatch food from a person's hand, which can be both frightening and distressing. However, what looks to us like an attack is, for gulls, just a way to survive. A gull will only act aggressively when looking for food, defending its territory, or protecting its young.

When young birds or the nests of herring gulls are approached by people, the gull's natural reaction is to protect the nest and its young; it does this by making a series of swooping dives over the intruder. Rarely, if ever, does the herring gull actually make physical contact with people. Any physical contact between swooping birds and humans is likely to cause serious damage to the bird. It will certainly feel like a worrying experience to a person, but usually even a raised arm will put off a swooping bird.

Problems and solutions

In towns, the herring gull is often regarded as a 'general nuisance'. Horrible early morning noise from birds at all times of the year, and mess caused by nest material and excessive droppings during the breeding season, are amongst the main causes for complaint.

There are certain basic rules that will help discourage gulls:

- cover regular perching and roof nesting areas with netting, to prevent gulls from landing;
- clean up thoroughly after barbecues and other outdoor meals;
- keep all household waste in hard, covered bins.

Herring gulls are quick to take advantage of the thoughtless disposal of food. Leaving rubbish outside overnight in flimsy black bags will provide a plentiful food supply and must be avoided as much as possible. Using hard containers for rubbish has proved successful, and it has also reduced the early morning noise from birds. Sadly, food discarded by thoughtless members of the public late at night, especially near take-aways, still causes problems.

Don't feed them!

Herring gulls are perfectly capable of finding food from nature. Their natural diet is fish, worms and small mammals and birds, so don't provide them with a meal. Herring gulls should never be fed, as this will not only increase the gull population, but will also cause unnecessary annoyance to neighbours.

If we don't feed herring gulls they will eventually turn to more natural sources of food. Not feeding them for a long period may even reduce the large herring gull population in our towns to more acceptable numbers through a natural process.

Stay within the law

The herring gull is protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and the removal of eggs and/or nests can only be undertaken by those licensed to do so. There are licensed Pest Control companies whose services include the removal of gull nests.





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