



GCSE

4171/02

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Wales candidates only
HIGHER TIER
UNIT 1 (READING)**



A.M. TUESDAY, 5 November 2013

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material.

An 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question.

Answer **all** the following questions.

The report on the opposite page, 'Noisy neighbours: a quiet country life – not quite,' is by Graham Norwood.

The separate Resource Material is a newspaper article, "Quiet, please!" by John Humphrys.

Read the first page of the article in the Resource Material: "Quiet, please!" by John Humphrys.

1. What does John Humphrys think and feel about noise? [10]

Now read the second page of the article [from "Perhaps you should follow ..." to the end].

2. How does John Humphrys try to persuade his readers that noise is a serious problem? [10]

Read the first three paragraphs of the report on the opposite page [up to "... may make neighbours' lives hell"].

3. According to Graham Norwood, why is the countryside so noisy? [10]

To answer the next question you will need to refer to the whole of both texts.

4. Compare and contrast these two texts under the following headings:
- the attitudes of these two writers to noise;
 - what each writer suggests can be done to solve the problems of noise. [10]

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

Noisy neighbours: a quiet country life – not quite

A rooster can be as noisy as a lorry, reports Graham Norwood, so what are neighbours to do?

Birdsong and snorting pigs aren't the only things you hear when you wake up in the country; ask anyone with a home near a campsite or a car boot sale.

The Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) publishes 'tranquillity maps' showing areas of countryside where 'natural' sounds dominate, and locations where traffic and other unnatural noises such as farming machinery dominate. It's all about assessing what's 'appropriate' countryside noise and what's a disturbance. A spokesperson from CPRE says, "Background noise in the countryside is typically 29 decibels. Birdsong reaches 70 decibels but most people think that's appropriate, compared to music which may also be 70 decibels."

Many of the loudest rural noises come from farmers, or at least from their land. An average British farm is nearly three times the size of one on mainland Europe, so farmers here are increasingly left with spare land, which they let out to boost their annual income. Of Britain's 300,000 farms, about 50 per cent have diversified and now increase their income in different ways. A few have opted for noisy enterprises, such as motor biking or helicopter rides. Others rent out buildings to businesses moving from cities and bringing with them commuting workers and frequent trade deliveries. Some farmers diversify with wind turbines. Even horse shows attract hundreds of vehicles and may make neighbours' lives hell.

Complaints about rural noise and disturbance are increasing. Organisations which resolve issues between warring neighbours report a 50 per cent rise in countryside disputes since 2005. In towns and cities, the rise is just 10 per cent. "Most of my cases involve farmers and neighbours arguing over traffic levels, or noise from shooting events or music parties held in fields," says Paul Thomas, a voluntary mediator in mid-Wales.

Most disputes can be resolved if you complain directly to your neighbour and come to an agreement that is acceptable to you both. If this fails, keep a diary of problems with dates, photos and witnesses so that you have evidence which you may wish to use later.

When Catherine Parry hosts parties and wedding receptions in a barn on her family's farm, she works hard not to upset the neighbours. Each year she hosts a dozen large gatherings with up to 180 guests, but tries to ensure locals suffer minimal noise. The 15 closest residents are given wine or flowers and are alerted well in advance. "We use rugs to insulate the barn, stop live bands at 10pm and make the DJs stop at midnight," Parry explains. "Cars come in and leave via a loop route so they don't pass many houses. My family's been here for 30 years, so the last thing we want to do is lose the goodwill of our neighbours." David Werrell, a gamekeeper who lives nearby, says that the tactics work. "It's all down to communication," he says. "If we know what's happening we change our plans a little that day."

If it has not been possible to settle a dispute between yourselves, professional mediators, usually with legal knowledge or psychology training, charge up to £800 for two days and will try to resolve any issues through negotiation. Alternatively, you may wish to consult your local Citizens Advice Bureau who may offer different solutions. There are volunteer mediation services which can be used and are often free.

Finally, don't suffer in silence.

Graham Norwood

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A.M. TUESDAY, 5 November 2013

Resource Material

“Quiet, please!”

The world is getting louder, and the noise is damaging our health. It’s time we all turned down the volume, says news presenter John Humphrys.

I present a radio programme called ‘Today’ from 6.00 until 9.00 in the morning. It is inevitable that if you present the Today programme, you will become obsessed with noise as a typical day starts at 4.30am. The first question strangers ask me is always: “How do you manage to sleep?” This is where noise makes a difference because it depends. If it is quiet, I sleep like a contented baby. If it is noisy, I sleep like an irritable baby with a teething problem. The difference is that if I am kept awake, I do not scream for attention but lie still, angry, cursing all those selfish souls who think it acceptable to walk past my house at nine in the evening without lowering their voices to a whisper. Noise can be a nightmare.



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I love classical music and traditional Christmas carols but dread the approach of Christmas, knowing that every shop I enter will welcome (or deafen) me with Christmas music. I detest the irritating train passenger who pulls out their shrieking mobile to answer a phone call, forcing the entire train carriage to listen in. I cannot stand hotels who believe you cannot make it through a meal without deafening music in the background.

Do you, like me, want to take a large hammer to the small jet engine your neighbour insists on using to blow away the tiny handful of leaves from his front garden? Do you nod in agreement at the result of the survey last week that asked office workers what most annoyed them about the behaviour of their colleagues and found that they put eating noisily at the top of the list? Do you, like me, applaud the hotel chain that has installed noise meters in its corridors that flash a warning light if people are talking too loudly? I agree with those guests who ask for a refund if they failed to get a good night’s sleep because of noise.

Perhaps you should follow the example of the man who cancelled his long-standing membership at his gym when they started playing loud music (and successfully encouraged other members to join him). He asked the obvious question: “Who wants a raving disco at 7.00am?” The music, said the gym owners, was “motivational”. Standing up to the gym owners was the only option he had.

If you are old enough to have teenage children, you may by now be starting to feel a little uneasy. You may fear that you are settling into a stereotype – the selfish, grumpy old parent who wants to stop others having fun. But don’t suffer in silence; make it clear to your children how damaging their noise can be. If the noise is driving you mad, limit their listening to when you are not at home. They’ll thank you when they retain their hearing into old age. Don’t encourage headphones either; they are contributing to an increase in hearing problems. If your children must use them, make them turn down the volume. Even more worryingly, perhaps, is the effect of noise on young children.

The British Medical Journal has commented on the ways in which children exposed to constant noise can suffer. One study looked at children of primary school age living in 32-floor blocks of flats near a main road. The children on the lower floors were affected much more severely than those living higher up. Not only was their hearing damaged, but it was shown that they did less well at school. They had greater difficulty processing information, had poorer memories and more difficulty concentrating.



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Another study that compared children living near a railway line with pupils at the same school who lived in a quieter area found significant differences in reading ability; the average reading age of the railway children was three to four months behind the others. The solution would be impossible given the difficulty of rehousing half the population of any big, noisy city. But, if you feel noise has taken over your life, you can always consider moving to somewhere quieter.

There have been many studies proving the damaging effect of noise at work. Hearing loss is the most obvious problem, and another effect is raised blood pressure. However, noise exists on a different level, too, and it’s much trickier to see how we deal with that. Modern society demands that if we have something to say, we must make a great deal of noise about it or it will not be heard. The days of the quiet thinkers, who were listened to because of what they thought rather than how they said it, have long gone.

As for me, I’m all for the sound of silence when I’m going about my private life. As for solutions, I’d need to sleep on that.

John Humphrys

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