



**GCSE**

4942/01

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE  
FOUNDATION TIER  
UNIT 2**



P.M. TUESDAY, 21 January 2014

1 hour 45 minutes

### **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 15 minutes reading  
- about 45 minutes answering the questions

Section B - about 10 minutes planning  
- about 35 minutes writing

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Section A (Reading): 30 marks

Section B (Writing): 30 marks

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

**SECTION A: 30 marks**

Answer **all** of the following questions.

On the opposite page is an internet report: ‘Helping Hands: Four in five teens positive on housework’ by Niall Murray.

The **separate Resource Material for use with Section A** is a newspaper article, ‘Mother goes on strike to teach messy children a tough lesson’ by Nick Allen.

**Read the internet report on the opposite page, ‘Helping Hands: Four in five teens positive on housework’.**

- A1.** (a) List **five** reasons why teenagers said they were prepared to help out with housework. [5]  
(b) List **five** tasks that teenagers might have been expected to do in the past. [5]

**Now read the newspaper article, ‘Mother goes on strike to teach messy children a tough lesson’ in the separate Resource Material.**

- A2.** How does the writer try to make the story of Jessica Stilwell’s strike interesting? [10]

You should comment on:

- details that make this story interesting;
- what we learn about Jessica Stilwell and her family that is interesting;
- words and phrases that make it interesting;
- the use of photographs.

**You will need to use both texts to answer the following question.**

Both of these texts are about children and household jobs.

- A3.** (a) According to the two texts, what household jobs are seen as suitable for children nowadays?  
(b) What reasons are given in the two texts for children **not** doing household jobs? [10]

*You must make it clear which text you are referring to.*

## Helping hands: Four in five teens positive on housework

It may come as a surprise to many parents but teenagers have been found to have a positive attitude to helping out with housework. A study of almost 450 fourteen and fifteen-year-olds showed that 80% of teenagers regularly did chores to help their parents such as setting the table for meals or doing the washing up. Professor Madeleine Leonard surveyed the fourteen and fifteen-year-olds at 11 schools.

The research found that helping at home was more likely among children whose parents were both working. One girl wrote, "If both parents work, they are too tired to do it every day." Other students wanted to do something in return for their upbringing at home. "Teenagers should help because they are not paying for anything, like food or electricity," one boy wrote.

The results of Professor Leonard's study come at a time when a survey of more than 300 parenting magazines between 1920 and 2006 has shown that the types of household jobs expected of children have changed over time. Between the 1930s and 1970s, children were expected to plan and prepare meals for the family and were given responsibility for tasks including nursing sick family members. In a letter in one magazine, a mother describes how she taught her four-year-old to build a fire and strike a match to light it.

Professor Leonard says that preparation for the future was often a reason given for being involved in housework. "Domestic chores were seen as a key part of adult life and many people stated that when they eventually lived on their own, they would need to know how to look after themselves," she wrote. In the past, children were even expected to help with the decorating or keep household accounts, as these tasks were seen as helping children prepare for adulthood, though no teenagers in Professor Leonard's study routinely did these things now.

The importance of men also doing household work was recognised by both sexes, with one boy summing it up well, "Because in later life, women will be out working too, unlike before, and our wives will not have the time to do all the housework so we should get used to it now."

Almost one-in-four teenagers said they should help out at home because they had contributed to the mess that needed cleaning. More than two-thirds of the surveyed group said they help clean the house at least once a week. "The responses suggest that children feel that household chores are a way of paying parents back for looking after them, bringing them up and providing for their everyday needs," Professor Leonard wrote.

There were, however, those teens who only did the housework because they were made to or asked to by their parents. One boy argued, "People of my age should not be expected to do things like washing up, because I'm expected to do homework and studying every night. That takes all my time. I read that in the past, teenagers were expected to look after the younger children in the family but we would never have the time to do that nowadays." Others argued that childhood was a period to be enjoyed and it should not be interrupted with household responsibilities.

*By Niall Murray,  
Education Correspondent*

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**SECTION B : 30 marks**

*In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your writing skills.*

*Half of the marks are awarded for content and organisation; half of the marks are awarded for sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.*

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

*You should aim to write about 300-400 words.*

**Write a lively article for a teenage magazine with ONE of the following titles:**

- My Kind of Music.
- My Kind of Fashion.
- My Kind of Movie.

[30]

*The space below can be used to plan your work.*

*You may want to think about:*

- *who you will be writing your article for;*
- *ways of making your article interesting;*
- *why you like the kind of music/fashion/movie you are writing about.*



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**Resource Material for use with Section A**

# Mother goes on strike to teach messy children a tough lesson

Jessica Stilwell, a Canadian mother, has become an internet sensation after going on strike for six days, refusing to tidy up after her three daughters, and setting up a blog called 'Striking Mum' that documented the chaos. Her 'strike' struck a chord with parents globally, many of whom praised her as their hero.



When Jessica Stilwell came home tired at the end of a long working day and saw the clutter left by her three daughters, she decided enough was enough. Her children knew they were expected to do simple household chores such as keeping their own belongings tidy and clearing their own breakfast and dinner plates and putting them in the dishwasher but they had got used to leaving it for her to do. At first she felt frustrated that her children had left everything to her but then became determined to make them understand the family had to work together and help each other.

On her blog Mrs Stilwell wrote, "This working mum has officially gone on STRIKE! I looked around my house at the mess but instead of becoming angry, I laughed and thought this would be funny to write about. I just decided I was done nagging."

She let her husband, Dylan, in on the plan but didn't tell the girls. She also posted photos of the mess on the site and said she enjoyed responding to all the parents who posted comments on her site saying she was an inspiration to them.

She stopped doing all the chores and tasks that her girls should have been doing for themselves and her blog recorded how her house became a chaotic pigsty. Mrs Stilwell did not tell her twin daughters Olivia and Peyton (12) and their sister Quinn (10) about her experiment, because she wanted to see how long it would take for them to begin cleaning up after themselves.

On day one she wrote on her blog, "The breakfast dishes and dinner dishes are still on the table, crusty by now. The dishwasher is overflowing and shoes and schoolbags are in the middle of the hallway."

By day two she had become aware that milk sitting in a cereal bowl for a day, "begins to stink much sooner than one would expect" and that takeaway food sets "like superglue". Mrs Stilwell added: "If you leave the dishwasher open all day long with dirty dishes, the dog will eventually lick the entire thing clean."



By the third day, as the dirty dishes piled up in the sink, she resorted to using paper plates. One of the jobs the children were expected to do was to clean the lunch boxes they used for school. When they didn't even do that, their school meals were packed in the only other containers they had – 'poo bags' intended for clearing up after the dog.

Mrs Stilwell explained because she was normally house proud, she had to really fight the urge to give in and clean up. On day four, Olivia told her a total of 17 times that the kitchen was "disgusting," but still did nothing about it. She added, "They all kept saying, 'Why aren't we cleaning up?' And then they'd push their dirty cereal bowl from yesterday towards me and ask why it was still here. It was fun to keep telling them I was just too busy to clean up – just like they had done to me before all this started."

By day six the girls had had enough, with one of them breaking down in tears and begging for help to clean up. Mrs Stilwell wrote, "They actually began turning on each other. It got ugly. Each one blamed the others for the mess." After she told them she had gone on strike, one of her daughters said angrily, "Kids have parents for a reason: to clean up after them."

However, they apologised and agreed to clean up, which took two days during which Mrs Stilwell felt she should not lift a finger to help and instead sat on her settee drinking coffee that her daughters made for her. The girls gagged and bickered as they cleaned up, using two bottles of detergent and half a bottle of bleach before the whole house was nearly perfect. A week later, Mrs Stilwell said the girls are doing much better at cleaning up after themselves.

Mrs Stilwell said she had "great kids" but had decided to strike because, "I realised I was not doing my own children any favours. These were things that they should be doing on their own. I worry that we are raising a generation of young people who expect to be waited on hand and foot by their parents."



By Nick Allen

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