



GCSE

4942/02

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE
HIGHER 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 the following questions.

The passage on the opposite page is an article 'Thorpe Park: how to scare your teenagers' by Andrew Baker.

The separate Resource Material for use with Section A is 'Great Days Out: Alton Towers' by James Kenny.

Read 'Thorpe Park: how to scare your teenagers' by Andrew Baker on the opposite page.

A1. According to Andrew Baker, why do teenagers like Thorpe Park? [10]

You must use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Read 'Great Days Out: Alton Towers' by James Kenny in the separate Resource Material.

A2. How does James Kenny try to show that Alton Towers is a great day out? [10]

To answer this question you must look at both texts.

A3. Queuing is a major issue at theme parks. Compare and contrast what these two writers say about queuing at theme parks. [10]

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

THORPE PARK: how to scare your teenagers

Thorpe Park – Rollercoaster Central, the thrill capital of England, the most terrifying location inside the M25 – holds a special place in the affections of all teenagers in the south-east of England, and a kind of horrified fascination for their parents. It is where the teens want to go for their first independent day out and, although their parents may wonder why, they are unlikely to issue a blanket ban. The high-speed rides are billed as scary – and most are certainly that – but it's a pretty safe destination.

There really isn't anywhere like it so close to London. Legoland has rides and the London Dungeon has scares but the former is hardly likely to set a teenager's pulse racing and the latter is creepy rather than thrilling. You can tell from the names of the rides what Thorpe Park is about: Nemesis Inferno, Colossus and Slammer are not designed for the very old, the very young or the very timid. Which is just the way the customers want it. You don't have to be scared witless. There are some gentle rides but these are aimed at the wimpiest in teenage parties. You could aim for the water-based rides, in which case you won't die of fright but you will get very damp or – in the case of Tidal Wave – soaked to the skin.

But raw thrills are the name of the game. Rollercoaster purists will aim for Colossus where they will gain mighty satisfaction from the sheer number of loops. Nemesis Inferno dangles its participants as it whips them through gravity-defying swoops and swirls. Stealth – probably the fastest rollercoaster in Europe – is all about ultimate speed and Saw Alive adds a supremely creepy horror movie to a route crammed with stomach-challenging action. The latest (and by all accounts the scariest) attraction is The Swarm.

Two of the more basic concepts are still staggeringly effective. Detonator is essentially an enormous, multi-person, seated freefall and Slammer is almost artistic in its simplicity. It is just a gigantic platform which rises and then rotates around its halfway line. Many teenagers scoff on approach but they have all changed their tune by the time they stagger away, jelly-legged. Saw Alive is very scary indeed but that is down to the ancient expedient of having actors to do the scaring rather than machinery-based thrills.

It's good stuff and there is plenty enough for a day's entertainment, which makes the admission charge good value. It's particularly good value if the teens are alone, because – we are reliably informed – long queues are very much part of the fun, allowing endless opportunities to anticipate the thrills ahead and dissect those already experienced. Adults may find the prospect of such queues too much so Fastrack (queue jumper!) tickets are the answer. In summary, teens will enjoy themselves immensely and talk about it for weeks afterwards but adults who are only present as supervisors or chauffeurs should be prepared to make sure that they book in advance and arrive in good time for the queue for the Fastrack tickets.

Andrew Baker

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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 350-500 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.



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Resource Material for use with Section A

GREAT DAYS OUT: ALTON TOWERS

My last trip to Alton Towers was on a hot summer's day and was an annual excursion organised by my school. I remember them announcing it in assembly at the start of the year and for the next eight months it was virtually the sole topic of conversation in the school yard.

When the day finally came, I remember waking early and instructing my mother to give me a light breakfast, so I wouldn't have to feel the embarrassment of vomiting while on a rollercoaster. I don't remember much about the journey there, apart from the fact I was worried about where I'd meet my friends, due to the fact that we were unable to travel on the same coach. My anxiety subsided as I began to see the signs for Alton Towers, tension replaced with anticipation. We passed through a couple of small, picturesque villages and, despite the fact that my adolescent mind was full of excitement, I caught sight of one of the villagers shaking her head at the fleet of coaches rolling by. For a brief moment the excitement died, and I felt sorrow for her. I realised that the expansion of Alton Towers must make life in these wonderful villages a nightmare in the summer months.



Once there, we were relieved we didn't have to worry about queuing at the ticket office as we had paid in advance. The first queue we encountered was the one to get through the turnstiles but the guys in the ticket booths were very quick and we didn't have to wait too long. Once in, the noise and euphoria hit us like an intoxicating drug.

The first sight we saw was a long street, namely Tower Street. On each side was a row of food outlets and gift shops. At the end of the street we were confronted by Swan Lake where you could ride on a Swan Boat. Adults probably like that sort of thing but my friends and I, of course, had no interest whatsoever in any of this and were certainly not the slightest bit interested in messing about in a Swan Boat. We ran like crazed, teenage lunatics, heading for the X Sector, home of Oblivion, the world's first vertical rollercoaster.

Oblivion

Oblivion is one of the scariest rollercoasters you can ever experience and the long queues only add to the tension. You're also subjected to a number of video clips of a man calling himself the Lord of Darkness, who tells you that the ride is perfectly safe, but then lets out that familiar, sinister laugh associated with all villains. Once you're on the ride, the tension rises even further as you ascend slowly upwards on the track then wheel to the right towards the infamous drop. The carriage comes to a stop just slightly over the edge so that you are actually staring right down into the hole. After a brief pause, you plunge downwards at a gut-wrenching speed of 68 mph. I must admit I remember little of the drop, as I was too busy screaming. I do remember feeling relieved though when the carriage came to a stop. I didn't know it at the time but I had plunged 150 feet. The decision to have a light breakfast was a good one on reflection.

Nemesis

After taking an hour to relax and enjoy some lunch, my friends and I proceeded at a more leisurely pace towards another famous rollercoaster, Nemesis, the first rollercoaster in Europe to run on the underside of the track. Once again, a long queue loomed but this time there were no video clips or booming laughter. Instead you shuffled slowly through an artificial canyon with rivers of red water. I remember a woman began to have a full-blown panic attack as she obviously thought the water was blood, or maybe she was just generally scared. She was rushed from the queue to have medical attention. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, our turn had come. To my delight, the operator signalled us to seats in the front row. 'I will not shut my eyes,' I said to myself as I strapped myself in. The ride started and almost instantly we were thrown into a series of terrifying loops. The promise I had made myself was overridden by instinct. My eyes slammed shut and I screamed, shouted, laughed out of terror. I felt the motion but saw nothing until we came to a stop. Only when I was safe did I remember the promise and feel regret that I would not have any visual memories of the experience.



James Kenny