ENGLISH A2 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1
ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1
INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1

Thursday 2 May 2002 (morning)
Jeudi 2 mai 2002 (matin)
Jueves 2 de mayo de 2002 (mañana)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Section B consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Choose either Section A or Section B. Write one comparative commentary.

INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- Ne pas ouvrir cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé.
- La section A comporte deux passages à commenter.
- La section B comporte deux passages à commenter.
- Choisissez soit la section A soit la section B. Écrire un commentaire comparatif.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- En la Sección A hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- En la Sección B hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- Elija la Sección A o la Sección B. Escriba un comentario comparativo.

Choose either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 1 (a)

Who will benefit from the human genome?

Mapping the human genome is a great human achievement, rather like climbing Mount Everest. Like climbing Mount Everest, it will benefit few people, leaving most untouched. But unlike climbing Mount Everest, it has the potential to damage large numbers of people. So it is important to cut through the exaggerated expectations and to assess the probable benefits and costs.

Benefits should arise through eventual identification of the tens of thousands of genes in the whole genome. These benefits must be assessed, however, in the context of what medicine has actually achieved. Of 32 years improvement in life expectancy in the 20th century, just 10% was the result of advanced medical care (and one half of that was due to childhood immunization). Most of our good health has come from environmental improvements: clean water, modern sewage disposal, better housing and so on. Yet we spend 50 times as much per head of population on health care as is spent on the 5 billion people living outside OECD countries.

One reason for all the hype about the human genome project may be that recent medical research has produced little of value, and medical scientists are desperate for something dramatic. Clinical trials and meta-analyses get even larger because such small improvements are looked for; many now are only designed to show equivalence: that the new drug is just about as good as what we have already. But virtually no research is done on the major tropical diseases that may kill many millions each year: just 1% of the new drugs marketed in the last 25 years are useful in such diseases. And how is it that after 30 years of being fed a weekly diet by the main cancer charities of the latest, greatest breakthroughs, there have been only marginal improvements in cancer cure and survival rates?

That medical research achieves so little may be because most is no longer done for the benefit of mankind. Most is now done for personal career advancement or to benefit the shareholders of pharma and biotech companies. This is seen par excellence in the human genome project. If the research were genuinely intended to benefit humanity, researchers would ensure that those assessing its social and ethical issues, and the general public, could keep up.

Comments by Dr Richard Nicholson for the *CAHGE (Campaign Against the Human Genome)* made to the press, 14 June 2000.
http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~cahge

Text 1 (b)

Babies born in the 21st century may still develop diseases like asthma, diabetes and multiple sclerosis. But they may not have to live with them.

As the millennium approaches, we stand at the threshold of a dramatic turning point in the history of medicine.

It's the genetic era. And within the lifetime of our children, its developments could provide us with the keys to conquer many of today's most threatening diseases. The reason for such optimism? The genetic era signals a quantum leap in our understanding of the body and of disease.

Now, with our first real understanding of the human body's genetic programming, comes a real chance for cures.

At Pfizer, a world leader in biomedical research and development, the excitement is palpable. "We are entering a truly revolutionary period in which insights derived from genetic research will shine a powerful light on the root causes of disease," says Dr Arthur Franke, who heads Pfizer's molecular biology research in neuroscience. As high school biology students learn, genes determine such physical characteristics as hair and eye colour, height and weight range. We now know that genes also determine whether we are likely to develop a range of dangerous and potentially fatal diseases. Our genes play a role in deciding whether we will be susceptible to colon cancer. Or whether we will be able to gorge on ice cream, chain-smoke and die in our sleep at 90.

Today, an important portion of Pfizer's $1.7 billion Research & Development budget is spent on genetic research. The reason is obvious: **If genetic coding can cause a disease or encourage it to develop, genetic therapy could prevent or cure disease. Genetic research is pointing Pfizer scientists to the types of therapies that once might have seemed like science fiction.**

Some examples?

Antibiotics that will specifically target bacterial genes necessary for disease survival. It's real hope for real cures.

To families who have watched generation after generation of children give themselves daily insulin shots, **it is the promise of liberation from a life-threatening cycle.**

To people living in fear of congenital multiple sclerosis or cystic fibrosis it's the dream that their fears will end.

Medical progress is the source of all these hopes. And what makes it possible is a tremendous commitment of time and resources from Pfizer and other leading companies. "We are driven by the knowledge that our work today could end or prevent suffering for millions of people tomorrow," says Dr Ian Williams, who heads molecular science research at Pfizer. "Pfizer researchers go to work each day knowing that they are contributing to an effort that could change the world for their own children and for the generations to come."

Pfizer
We're part of the cure.

from an advertisement, 1999

SECTION B

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 2 (a)

After a time his door was unlocked again and opened a few inches. A hand thrust in a tin, and a voice said, "Pint pot quick!" Paul's mug was filled with cocoa, and the door was again locked. The tin contained bread, bacon, and beans. That was the last interruption for fourteen hours. Paul fell into a reverie. It was the first time he had really been alone for months. How very refreshing it was, he reflected.

* * *

The next four weeks of solitary confinement were among the happiest of Paul's life. The physical comforts were certainly meagre, but at the Ritz Paul had learned to appreciate the inadequacy of purely physical comfort. It was so exhilarating, he found, never to have to make any decision on any subject, to be wholly relieved from the smallest consideration of time, meals, or clothes, to have no anxiety ever about what kind of impression he was making; in fact, to be free. At some rather chilly time in the early morning a bell would ring, and the warder would say, "Slops outside!"[1]; he would rise, roll up his bedding, and dress; there would be no need to shave, no hesitation about what tie he should wear, none of the fidgeting with studs and collars and links that so distracts the waking moments of civilized man. He felt like the happy people in the advertisements for shaving soap who seem to have achieved very simply that peace of mind so distant and desirable in the early morning. For about an hour he stitched away at a mail-bag, until his door was again unlocked to admit a hand with a lump of bread and a large ladle of porridge. After breakfast he gave a cursory polish to the furniture and crockery of his cell and did some more sewing until the bell rang for chapel. […] After that the day was unbroken save for luncheon, supper, and the Governor's inspection. The heap of sacking which every day he was to turn into mail-bags was supposed by law to keep him busy for nine hours. The prisoners in the cells on either side of him, who were not quite in their right minds, the warder told Paul, found some difficulty in finishing the task before lights out. Paul found that with the least exertion he had finished long before supper, and spent the evenings in meditation and in writing up on his slate the thoughts which had occurred to him during the day.

from *Decline and Fall* by Evelyn Waugh, 1928

[1] "Slops outside!": a call to put out your bucket of waste

Text 2 (b)

Each narrow cell in which we dwell
Is a foul and dark latrine[1],
And the fetid breath of living Death
Chokes up each grated screen[2],
And all, but lust, is turned to dust
In Humanity's machine.

The brackish water that we drink
Creeps with a loathsome slime,
And the bitter bread they weigh in scales
Is full of chalk and lime,
And Sleep will not lie down, but walks
Wild-eyed, and cries to Time.

But though lean Hunger and green Thirst
Like asp and adder[3] fight,
We have little care of prison fare[4],
For what kills and chills outright
Is that every stone one lifts by day
Becomes one's heart by night.

With midnight always in one's heart,
And twilight in one's cell,
We turn the crank, or tear the rope,
Each in his separate hell,
And the silence is more awful far
Than the sound of a brazen bell.

And never a human voice comes near
To speak a gentle word:
And the eye that watches through the door
Is pitiless and hard:
And by all forgot, we rot and rot,
With soul and body marred.

And thus we rust life's iron chain
Degraded and alone;
And some men curse, and some men weep,
And some men make no moan;
But God's eternal laws are kind
And break the heart of stone.

an extract from Oscar Wilde's poem about his own experiences in prison
The Ballad of Reading Gaol by Oscar Wilde, 1897

1 latrine: a primitive toilet
2 grated screen: window with bars
3 asp and adder: poisonous snakes
4 fare: food