



**ENGLISH A2 – STANDARD LEVEL – PAPER 1**  
**ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU MOYEN – ÉPREUVE 1**  
**INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL MEDIO – PRUEBA 1**

Tuesday 4 May 2004 (morning)

Mardi 4 mai 2004 (matin)

Martes 4 de mayo de 2004 (mañana)

1 h 30 m

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**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.
- It is not compulsory for you to respond directly to the guiding questions provided. However, you may use them if you wish.

**INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS**

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- 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. Écrivez un commentaire comparatif.
- Vous n'êtes pas obligé(e) de répondre directement aux questions d'orientation fournies. Vous pouvez toutefois les utiliser si vous le souhaitez.

**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.
- No es obligatorio responder directamente a las preguntas de orientación que se incluyen, pero puede utilizarlas si lo desea.

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. It is not compulsory for you to respond directly to the guiding questions provided. However, you may use them as starting points for your comparative commentary.

#### Text 1 (a)

### OCTOPUS

The octopus is beautifully  
functional as an umbrella;  
at rest a bag of rucked<sup>1</sup> skin  
sags like an empty pouch  
5 his jelled eyes sad and bored

but taking flight: look  
how lovely purposeful  
in every part:  
the jet vent smooth  
10 as modern plumbing  
the webbed pinwheel of tentacles  
moving in perfect accord  
like a machine dreamed  
by Leonardo<sup>2</sup>

Adapted from a poem by Pat Lowther (1977)

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<sup>1</sup> rucked: wrinkled

<sup>2</sup> Leonardo: Leonardo Da Vinci, painter and inventor (1452-1519)

**Text 1 (b)**

Got a problem? Why not see if nature has already solved it in a way that might provide creative inspiration? In countries around the world, researchers are looking to animals for ideas on solving complex problems.

5 At Carleton University in Ottawa, Ken Storey is trying to figure out how some species of frogs are able to turn into solid hunks of ice in the winter, but thaw out and hop away come spring. He believes that their molecular secrets will one day allow human organs to be frozen safely, and doctors won't have to race against time to transplant livers and hearts once they are taken from the donor.

10 At the University of Toronto, Andrew Mason is studying a species of parasitic fly that has some of the most acute hearing in nature, on par with that of cats and owls. The study on the insect's unique eardrums could lead to new hearing aids that are smaller, cheaper and simpler than those currently on the market.

15 Biotechnology firm Nexia is producing the world's first man-made spider filaments, which could be used to make new bulletproof vests, better medical sutures,<sup>1</sup> or environmentally friendly fishing line.

In several countries, researchers are studying antlers<sup>2</sup> in the hope of building tougher helmets and are examining bird and horse bones with a view to building lighter planes. Butterflies flitting through insect-size wind tunnels may help engineers design tiny flying robots. Cockroaches scuttling across the floor are the inspiration for six-legged robots.  
20 The skin of cuttle fish, which can change colour to match the animal's surroundings, could be mimicked in military uniforms that do the same.

25 Velcro, perhaps the most famous biomimetic invention, was discovered because Swiss amateur inventor Georges de Mestral had a large and hairy dog that frequently got burrs caught in its fur. It occurred to him that this might be a good model for fastening two fabrics together, and the result was a new way to do up coats and shoes.

The idea is not to try to replicate nature in the lab. Many early aviators actually did copy bird wings exactly, with disastrous results. The idea is to mimic aspects of nature. Over millions of years, nature, through evolution, has come up with solutions to problems such as how to stick to a wet rock while being pounded by waves. Why invent underwater glue  
30 from scratch when the blue mussel already has the formula?

Anne McIlroy, adapted from a feature article in the *Toronto Globe and Mail* (2003)

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<sup>1</sup> sutures: stitches

<sup>2</sup> antlers: the horns of animals belonging to the deer family

- How can animals inspire human beings?
- How, and in what form, is this inspiration expressed by the language of poetry and the language of journalism?
- What is the difference in the view of animals expressed by the two texts?

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## 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. It is not compulsory for you to respond directly to the guiding questions provided. However, you may use them as starting points for your comparative commentary.*

### Text 2 (a)

Nnaife had a faint idea of where he was going; as far as he was concerned, his talk about joining the army was just a bluff, which would have paid off if it scared Nnu Ego\* a little. He smiled to think of how worried she would be.

5 He had been told there were many European residences at Ikoyi on the island of Lagos, and that was where he was headed to see if there was anything for him to do. He would not even have minded being hired on a daily basis as long as he could bring something home, anyway until the clerk who had accepted his five-pound “dash” fulfilled his promise to find him a post. It was a small consolation to Nnaife at least to be leaving the house, just like any man who tells his wife, “I am going to work.” He had never had to say that, 10 because his work had been in the same compound as his home. Now he felt like other men even though he was setting out at one o’clock in the afternoon when most men would have done the greater part of the day’s work. Still he felt better knowing that the food he left would feed his family in the evening: he was going to make sure that he came back late, too late for any kind of meal. He changed the penny he had in his pocket for four farthings 15 and with one he bought a piece of kolanut which he chewed thoughtfully on the way, like a goat. Walking to Ikoyi was tiring; it was almost ten miles from the part of Yuba he had left.

20 His enquiries at many of the gates yielded nothing. At first he asked the servants, most of them Ibos like himself, if there were any jobs going in their masters’ compounds. They did not know, and he had the feeling that even if they had known they would not have told him. But he was not going home without definite news for his wife and son.

Buchi Emecheta, adapted from the novel *The Joys of Motherhood* (1979)

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\* Nnu Ego: Nnaife’s wife

Text 2 (b)

**JOB SEARCH METHODS**

**Personal contacts.** Your family, friends, and acquaintances may offer one of the most effective ways to find a job. They may help you directly or put you in touch with someone else who can. Such networking can lead to information about specific job openings, many of which may not be publicly posted.

5 **Employers.** Through your library and Internet research, develop a list of potential employers in your desired career field. Employer websites often contain lists of job openings. Websites and business directories can provide you with information on how to apply for a position or whom to contact. Even if no open positions are posted, do not  
10 hesitate to contact the employer and the relevant department. Set up an interview with someone working in the same area you wish to work. Ask them how they got started, what they enjoy or dislike about the work, what type of qualifications are necessary for the job, and what type of personality succeeds in that position. Even if they don't have a position available, they may be able to put you in contact with other people who might hire you and they can keep you in mind if a position opens up. Make sure to send them your resumé and  
15 a cover letter. If you are able to obtain an interview, be sure to send a thank you note. Directly contacting employers is one of the most successful means of job hunting.

**Classified ads.** The "Help Wanted" ads in newspapers list numerous jobs. You should realize, however, that many other job openings are not listed, and that the classified ads sometimes do not give all of the important information. They may offer little or no  
20 description of the job, working conditions, or pay. Some ads do not identify the employer. They may simply give a post office box to mail your resumé to, making follow-up inquiries very difficult. Some ads advertise employment agencies rather than actual employment opportunities.

**Internet networks and resources.** The Internet provides a variety of information, including job listings and job search resources and techniques. However, no single  
25 network or resource will contain all of the information available on employment or career opportunities, so be prepared to search for what you need. Begin your search using keywords. When searching employment databases on the Internet, it is sometimes possible to send your resumé to an employer by e-mail or to post it on-line. Some sources allow  
30 you to send e-mail free of charge, but be careful that you are not going to incur any additional charges for postings or updates.

**Private employment agencies and career consultants.** These agencies can be helpful, but they are in business to make money. You or the hiring company will pay a fee. Find out the exact cost and who is responsible for paying associated fees before using the service.  
35 Although employment agencies can help you save time and contact employers who otherwise might be difficult to locate, the costs may outweigh the benefits if you are responsible for the fee.

Adapted from the website of the  
United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics  
(2002-03 Edition)

- How does the choice of details support the purpose of each text?
  - How and why do the structures of the two texts differ?
  - Which is the more powerful piece of writing and why?
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