



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

Wednesday 12 November 2008 (afternoon)

Mercredi 12 novembre 2008 (après-midi)

Miércoles 12 de noviembre de 2008 (tarde)

1 hour 30 minutes / 1 heure 30 minutes / 1 hora 30 minutos

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 are encouraged to use them as starting points for your comparative commentary.

Text 1 (a)

My Own Private Island

A tiny, self-contained land mass could be yours...

Got stress? Maybe you need to spend a little time on your own treasured island.

Sir Richard Branson, owner of Virgin Atlantic Airways, happily shares Necker Island, his northern Caribbean sanctuary, with renters who can pay at least \$100,000 for a five-night stay. Or you can
5 spend a few nights at Cayo Espanto in the turquoise waters off the coast of Belize, said to be a favorite of Tiger Woods, for a mere \$1,095 per night.

If you want to play Robinson Crusoe long-term, you can buy a piece of paradise from German entrepreneur Farhad Vladi, who has about 160 properties to sell, including Isla de sa Ferradura, an island and luxurious hacienda off Ibiza, Spain, for about \$39 million, and Hawbolt Island West
10 in Nova Scotia, for \$68,000. Islands aren't just for the rich, says Vladi, who has sold more than 1,500 islands in the last 30 years. His advice: rent first to make sure you like it.

Branson's Necker Island, at the northeastern tip of the British Virgin Islands, was developed as a vacation home for the Branson family, but when they're not around, the 74-acre island is available for private rental. It has a 10-bedroom main house, three Balinese guest houses, three pools and a
15 staff of 42. The island can accommodate 28 people, with all-inclusive rates based on time of year and number of guests, from \$20,000 to \$42,000 per night, with a five-night minimum.

A less expensive—but still pricey—choice is Cayo Espanto, where you can snorkel in front of your own villa. The western Caribbean island, which has been featured on “Dr. Phil” and “Oprah”*,
20 has five houses; guests can choose from villas or a bungalow ranging from \$1,095 to \$2,650 per night, including meals and drinks. The entire island rents for \$9,000 to \$13,000 nightly.

An article by Rosemary McClure, *Los Angeles Times* (2005)

* “Dr Phil” and “Oprah”: American television talk shows

Text 1 (b)

I had a dismal prospect of my condition. I was cast away upon that island driven by a violent storm out of the course of our intended voyage, and some hundreds of leagues¹ out of the ordinary course of the trade of mankind. I had great reason to consider it as a determination of Heaven, that in this desolate place and in this desolate manner I should end my life.

5 It was, by my account, the 30th of September 1659 when, in the manner as above said, I first set foot upon this horrid island. After I had been there about ten or twelve days, it came into my thoughts that I could lose my reckoning of time and could even forget the Sabbath² days from the working days; but to prevent this, I cut with my knife a notch upon a large post.

10 But what need had I to be concerned at the monotony of anything I had to do, seeing I had time enough to do it in? Nor had I any other employment, except ranging the island to seek for food, which I did more or less everyday.

I now began to consider seriously my condition, and the circumstance I was reduced to, and began to state my affairs in writing as my reason to master my gloom. I began to comfort myself as well as I could, and to set the good against the evil that I might have something to distinguish my case from worse, like the comforts I enjoyed against the miseries I suffered.

15 Evil

I am singled out and separated, as it were, from all the world to be miserable.
I am divided from mankind, a solitaire, one banished from human society.

20 Good

But I am alive, and not drowned as all my ship's company.
But I am in a hot climate, where if I had clothes I could hardly wear them.

From the novel *Robinson Crusoe*, by Daniel Defoe (1719)

¹ league: measurement of about five kilometres

² Sabbath: day set aside for religious worship

- Comment on point of view in both texts.
- What attitudes towards living on an island are expressed in the two texts?
- What stylistic differences show that 1 (b) is part of a work of fiction and 1 (a) is from a newspaper?

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 are encouraged to use them as starting points for your comparative commentary.

Text 2 (a)

Over the plains of Ethiopia the sun rose as I had not seen in seven years. A big, cool, empty sky flushed a little above a rim of dark mountains. [...] The red deepened and pulsed, radiating streaks of fire. There hung the sun, like a shining spider's egg, or a white pearl, just below the rim of the mountains. Suddenly, the sun swelled, turned red, roared over the horizon and drove up the sky like a train engine.

I knew [that] below in the swelling heat the birds were an orchestra in the trees about the villages of mud huts; how the long grass was straightening while [...] dewdrops dwindled and dried; how the people were moving out into the fields about the business of herding and hoeing.

Here is where the sun regulates living in a twelve-hour cycle. [...]

Here the sun is a creature of the same stuff as [us]; powerful and angry, [it is] no mere dispenser of pale candlepower.

When I was first in England I was disturbed all the time [...] because the sun went down at four in the middle of an active afternoon, filling a cold, damp, remote sky with [sadness]. Or, at eleven in the morning, instead of blazing down [directly on the land], a hand's-span from [the] centre, [the sun] would appear on a slant and in the wrong place, and at eight o'clock; [...] [it is] a swollen, misshapen, watery ghost of a thing peering behind chimney-pots.

The sun in England should be feminine. [...]

On that morning over Africa I learned that I had turned myself inwards. I felt that I had never left at all. This was my air, my landscape and above all my sun.

Adapted from Doris Lessing's memoir, *Going Home* (1957)

Text 2 (b)

**Heat is not cool
Weather forecasters might like to try impartiality¹**

Sir,

Patronising weather forecasts (“Comment”, February 24), eh? May I also make an appeal for impartiality? We hear much about the desirability of sunny climes² and the need to get away from the English winter. Forecasters warn us of impending rain, apologise for a cold spell,
5 speak bleakly about frost and fog. Yet the weather is nothing but neutral.

Rain may be bad for holidaymakers, but is great for ducks and farmers. Children and skiers love snow, even if bus drivers find it less inviting. Personally, I like being cool. I feel uncomfortable in strong heat and squint in the sun’s glare. I sweat easily and find rain refreshing. I spend my nights placing my warm limbs on cold, untouched parts of the undersheet. For me, the
10 weather forecast should declare a nasty spell of sunshine, a disastrous heat wave, a pleasant cold winter’s day, a romantic fog, a refreshing band of rain, an invigorating frost.

If this is too much for the sun-loving majority, then perhaps the epithets³ can be abandoned altogether in favour of an impartial delivery — there’s a lot of weather about today.

A letter to the editor, published in the *Times Online* (2 March 2008)
www.timesonline.co.uk

¹ impartiality: being unbiased or unprejudiced

² clime: climate

³ epithet: a descriptive word or phrase, often negative, to characterize a person or a thing

- How is the sun characterised in each text?
- What is the effect of first person narration in each text?
- Compare the use of descriptive language in the texts.