

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

English Language B

Paper 1

Tuesday 5 June 2018 – Morning
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
4EB1/01

Do not return this Extracts Booklet with the Question Paper.

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Text One

Living in a Steel Box

adapted from an article by Adam Forrest

In this passage, the writer presents his ideas about living in shipping containers.



Wenckehof student village in Amsterdam

From London to Amsterdam to Mumbai, shipping containers have been celebrated as a cheap and easy way to provide ready-made housing. But what is it like to live in one – and can they be a permanent solution? We're still trying to overcome the idea that a steel box is not a good place to live.

It takes time to adjust to living inside a steel box. Timothy Ader did not, initially, like the idea of staying at Wenckehof, a student village in Amsterdam made up of 1,000 recycled shipping containers. But three years after moving in, he has no regrets. 5

'My first impression of the containers was: it's like a slum – I'm not living there,' recalls the 24-year-old. 'But I started visiting a friend of mine living here and started to like the place. Then I moved in and I realised how good it was. I'm really comfortable in my container and I have a lot of space of my own. I wouldn't want to live anywhere else in the world right now.' 10

So what's it like to actually live in one? Ader says his Amsterdam container is cosy: each one has a living space, bathroom and balcony. Insulated panels and radiators help keep the place warm in winter. Privacy has not been a problem. In fact, Ader found it too quiet. He helped organise block parties and 'eat with your neighbour' events to make it a little livelier. It's also cheap. Residents here pay €450 a month making it much less expensive than the €600 a month Ader says students often pay to share a flat in central Amsterdam. 15

'There aren't many disadvantages but I think this kind of housing works best for single people who need something a little bit cheaper,' Ader concludes. 20

The Wenckehof, completed back in 2006, remains the largest development of its kind anywhere in the world. Although it was built as a temporary housing experiment, it proved so popular with students it was given permanent status by the Amsterdam authorities in 2011. And its success has intrigued architects and housing organisations looking for low-cost solutions to housing shortages in cities around the world. 25

In Brighton, on the English south coast, Brighton Housing Trust installed 36 shipping container homes on a former scrap metal yard. After residents moved into the site in 2013, there were complaints about anti-social behaviour and the containers being too cold in winter. But Brighton Housing Trust chief executive Andy Winter is confident new heaters, added insulation and a lock on the front gate have all improved matters. 'The feedback from the residents is that the place has worked remarkably well,' he explains. 30

Winter thinks the UK needs more temporary housing and believes public bodies could be more creative about freeing-up land on a short-term basis. 'Shipping containers could be used across the country,' he says, encouraged by the idea of starter flats for young people. 'Using it for student housing would certainly free up family homes. We're all on a housing journey. For some people, having their own place with their own front door is a great first step.' 35

Architects are already dreaming big. Or more accurately, dreaming high. They unveiled a proposal to replace slum housing in developing countries with 'container skyscrapers': enormous towers made up of brightly-painted units stacked on top of each other. 40
Another colourful design for high-rise container towers is aimed at easing pressure in Mumbai's Dharavi slum.

A Canadian architect Keith Dewey used 8 shipping containers to build his own large, 3-bedroom family home in the city of Victoria in British Columbia. The house features underfloor heating and high-end lighting systems. Dewey believes shipping container housing has an important role to play. 'There's longevity built into this kind of steel,' he says. 'It can be used again and again. I see this as one of the first recycled solutions to housing that's really taken the imagination by storm. It's going to become a bigger question: how are we going to make old materials useful again?' 45

Supporters for shipping container homes say speed of installation, cost savings on materials and the capacity to re-use units in new locations make it a serious option for urban housing. 50

The advantages of shipping container housing – sustainability and cost – may well prove too good to ignore. However, containers will have to overcome the perception of being stop-gap, make-do dwellings if they are ever to become a popular solution to the housing crisis. 55

Text Two

Adapted from the novel *Six Suspects* by Vikas Swarup

In this passage, the writer describes different types of houses in India.



Ashok took him to see Vicky Rai's farmhouse after lunch. They went through the Sanjay Gandhi slum, a warren of narrow, dark alleyways containing an assortment of small, squalid huts held together by bamboo poles and tattered sacking bags, their roofs an ugly patchwork of tarpaulin, plastic sheets, pieces of metal, old clothes – anything the owners could lay their hands on – and weighed down with rocks as protection against the wind. A group of men lazed in the open while their women filled pots of water from a municipal tap or chopped vegetables. Naked children caked in dust played with mangy dogs. Piles of rubbish and animal waste littered the ground like dead leaves. The smell of wood smoke and dung cooking fires drifted in the air.

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Almost directly opposite the slum stood Number Six. Set behind high metal gates, it was a three-storey marble mansion, towering over the neighbourhood like a permanent taunt. Behind the mansion the fluted sandstone minaret of the Qutub Minar peeked out, barely a kilometre away.

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Crossing the road to take a closer look at the farmhouse, Ashok and Eketi came to the rust-coloured boundary wall, fifteen feet high and topped by barbed wire.

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'How will we ever manage to enter this place?' Eketi wondered.

'We will. Don't worry,' Ashok assured him as they passed the main gate, which had at least six guards in police uniforms. They rounded a corner and turned left towards the northern end of the property. They came across a service entrance which appeared to be unguarded. Ashok tried the door, only to find it firmly locked from inside. The barbed-wire-topped boundary wall stretched for another five hundred metres and had no

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cavities, gaps or fractures which could be exploited. It was only when they were circling the rear boundary that Ashok saw something which made him pause. Tucked inside the cement wall was a small brown metal door, probably some kind of pedestrian entrance. It didn't appear to be in use as the paint had flaked off and the edges were rusted. Ashok tried the rusty metal handle, but the door did not open. In fact, there was so little give that it appeared not only to be locked but also boarded up from the inside. He stepped back and surveyed his surroundings. Behind him was a clump of eucalyptus trees and then a thorny jungle, full of acacia bushes. The brambles made the entire area behind Number Six not only uninhabitable but also virtually inaccessible. 'If only we could get this door to open,' he said wistfully.

'I will show you,' Eketi said and began sliding up the trunk of the eucalyptus tree. Within seconds he had reached the top. Catching hold of a sturdy branch, he began pulling it down with his weight till it became taut as a slingshot. Then kicking the trunk with his feet, he launched himself like a human arrow at the branches and foliage of a jamun tree jutting over the boundary wall. As a horrified Ashok watched, he flew through the air and landed on top of the jamun tree. From there it was child's play for him to make his way to the ground. A minute later the rusted metal gate creaked open.

Ashok was in a state of excitement as he took his first few steps inside the grounds of Number Six. He couldn't believe that within hours of arriving in Delhi he was actually inside the farmhouse. The sound of flowing water entered his ears, together with the mechanical hum of a lawnmower. He glimpsed a gardener busy shaving the grass on the lawn, barely a hundred feet away, and was about to duck behind a tree when he realized that the natural darkness of the wooded area would make it impossible for anyone on the lawn to detect him. From where he stood, the layout of the entire complex was clearly visible and once the gardener had moved further away he pointed out the main features to Eketi - the three-storey mansion in the distance, the Olympic-sized pool, the gazebo, and the small temple in the right-hand corner of the lawn.

They spent another fifteen minutes exploring the wooded area, coming across two magnificent peacocks. At the very edge of the wood, near the north-eastern corner, they saw a man-made waterfall. Water cascaded down a few large boulders into a narrow canal which ran alongside a cobbled pathway leading towards the garages and the front gate.

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Sources taken/adapted from:

Text One:

<https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/oct/09/living-steel-box-shipping-containers-future-housing>

Photograph: Tempohousing (picture in original article)

Text Two:

Six Suspects by Vikas Swarup, © 2008 Random House

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International GCSE

Centre Number

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English Language B

Paper 1

Tuesday 5 June 2018 – Morning
Time: 3 hours

Paper Reference

4EB1/01

You must have:
Extracts Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **all** questions in Section A, the question in Section B and **one** question in Section C.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 100.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Dictionaries may **not** be used in this examination.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.

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SECTION A: Reading

Answer ALL questions in this section.

You should spend 1 hour on this section.

Read Text One in the Extracts Booklet, adapted from an article called *Living in a Steel Box*.

- 1** Using lines 8–18, identify **one** point that Timothy Ader makes about living in a steel box.

.....

.....

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

- 2** In lines 32–45, the writer mentions several ways shipping containers could be used as housing.

State **one** of these.

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(Total for Question 2 = 1 mark)

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3 Explain how the writer presents his ideas about this unusual type of housing.

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including **brief** quotations.

(10)

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(Total for Question 3 = 10 marks)



Read Text Two in the Extracts Booklet, an extract from the novel *Six Suspects*.

4 In lines 1–9, the writer describes the slum housing.

State **one** of the things Ashok sees.

.....

.....

(Total for Question 4 = 1 mark)

5 In lines 17–31, the writer explains how secure Number Six is.

Identify **two** ways the house is protected.

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(Total for Question 5 = 2 marks)



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6 How does the writer describe what Ashok and Eketi see and feel?

You should support your answer with close reference to the passage, including **brief** quotations.

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(Total for Question 6 = 10 marks)



Refer to **BOTH Text One and Text Two** to answer the following question.

- 7 Compare how the writers of Text One and Text Two convey their ideas and perspectives about the different houses people live in.

Support your answer with examples from **both** texts.

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(Total for Question 7 = 15 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 40 MARKS



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(Total for Question 8 = 30 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 30 MARKS



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TOTAL FOR SECTION C = 30 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 100 MARKS

