

GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

ENGLISH (Specification 1900)

2431/01

Unit 1 Non-Fiction, Media and Information
(Foundation Tier)

Candidates answer on the Answer Booklet

OCR Supplied Materials:

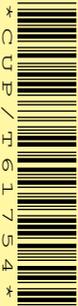
- 8 page Answer Booklet

Other Materials Required:

None

Thursday 8 January 2009
Morning

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes



INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Write your name clearly in capital letters, your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided on the Answer Booklet.
- Use black ink.
- Read each question carefully and make sure that you know what you have to do before starting your answer.
- Answer **all** the questions.
- Do **not** write in the bar codes.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

- The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.
- **Section A** is worth 42 marks. You are advised to spend **no more than 1 hour 10 minutes** on it.
- **Section B** is worth 21 marks. You are advised to spend **no more than 35 minutes** on it.
- The total number of marks for this paper is **63**.
- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

SECTION A

You are advised to spend **no more than 1 hour 10 minutes** on Section A.

Reading: NON-FICTION

In this passage the writer gives her views about how the British respond to wintry weather.

Read this passage carefully and then **answer questions 1(a), (b) and (c)**.

These answers will be marked for reading. Plan your answers and write them carefully.

Snow in Britain

It's getting colder. Prising teenagers out of bed in the mornings will become even harder. At least one of my children will lose her hat/coat/gloves over the next few weeks.

Here are some other things I can predict with certainty: that my children's schools will be closed this winter because of snow. This might – just – be understandable if we lived on Bodmin Moor, or on a remote farm on the Pennine hills, but in inner London? By March, too, I guarantee that we'll have experienced two episodes of transport chaos (seven hours to travel 30 miles – TV brings you eyewitness reports) followed by flooding (TV images of domestic rubbish floating in living rooms). 5

Why are the British so surprised by bad weather? It sometimes seems as if, each winter, we mutate into Martians, opening our windows and asking with amazement, 'What is that white stuff falling from the sky?' Parts of New York can get landed with a year's normal snowfall in a night but the next morning the traffic is still moving, and people still get to work and to school. In Canada, schools only close when the snowdrifts are higher than the tallest children. 10

Other countries just laugh at us. There was once a cartoon with the punchline, 'Due to the snow, England has been cancelled.' Is this because these countries have more extreme weather conditions than us? Or because we have shorter memories? In the past Britain was seriously cold. In 1947 there was the heaviest snowfall since 1814. In 1962 the country again came to a standstill for the coldest winter since 1740. Until the nineteenth century, frost fairs were held on the River Thames. 15

Yet our transport system is now so poor that anything out of the ordinary makes the country seize up. Investment in snowploughs and salting trucks – which cost money, but also save it – is so inadequate that winter gridlock becomes inevitable. 20

Our relationship to the weather displays a certain arrogance. Tragic accidents happen because, despite the forecasts of snow, people still go out hatless, sometimes even coatless. As Billy Connolly once put it, 'There's no such thing as bad weather, only wrong clothes.' It's as if we've become so separated from the seasons that we've lost our respect for the cold. 25

However, cold weather means not only hypothermia but also snowballs and sleighs. These responses to the outdoors need to be encouraged if they're not to be lost. Nowadays, organisations such as *Learning through Landscape* and *Living Streets* have to promote outdoor play. Even the Canadians are complaining that their children are no longer hardy, no longer playing outside between November and late spring, and consequently losing the capacity to cope with the cold. 30

So, am I dreaming of a white Christmas? No, I'm awaiting blizzards and transport havoc. Snow rage can't be far away.

Extract from Anne Karpf, *Snow in England*, 3 December 2005, *The Guardian*

- 1 (a) From **paragraphs one and two** (lines 1 to 8), write down **two** different ways in which the writer says the cold weather is likely to affect her family. [2]
- (b) From **paragraph four** (lines 14 to 19), give **three** facts about past British winters. [3]
- (c) **From your reading of the passage**, what makes the writer so surprised about the ways the British respond to bad weather? [16]

Use your own words as far as possible, and **do not repeat points** made in **1(a)** and **1(b)**. [16]

[Total 21 marks]

Turn over for the remainder of Section A

Reading: MEDIA TEXT

Read this newspaper article, written at a time when parts of Britain were facing wintry weather conditions. Then **answer Question 2**.

Your answer will be marked for reading. Plan your answer and write it carefully.

Snow falls – and much of Britain comes to a pathetic, predictable standstill

*by Michael McCarthy – Environment Editor
9 February 2007*

A flurry of snow slowed down southern Britain yesterday and brought much of it grinding to a halt.

It was hardly a Russian winter. There were no white-outs, blizzards or five-foot drifts. Three to four inches was a typical fall, the amount you can sweep off the top of your car with your gloved hand.



© A Room With Views / Alamy

We are so unused to snow of any kind now that the winters are warmer. Yesterday even a little snow was enough to cause chaos. Airports closed. Roads were blocked. Trains were cancelled. Schools didn't open – so a vast army of pupils had an unscheduled day off, on a day when the snow covering in many places was only deep enough to build snowmen knee-high. What would they think of us in Chicago?

There was plenty of warning, too. The Met Office sent out a precise forecast but it made no difference on the day. It was still a snowy knockout.

Hundreds of thousands of people were delayed on their journeys into central London, with major interruptions to trains across the South and South-east, while London Underground reported delays right across the Tube network. Many people chose to stay in bed.

It was a similar story on the roads. In spite of the fact that an army of 400 gritters and salt-spreading machines had been out, three major routes across the South-east were blocked by lorries jack-knifing: the M25, the A22 and the A3. According to Essex Police, there were 23 crashes on the county's roads in just two hours, while 19 accidents in five hours were reported to police in Wiltshire.

Airports were worst affected of all. Five airports – at Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Stansted and Luton – closed their runways for part of the morning, while Heathrow and Gatwick cancelled dozens of flights and delayed others. Tens of thousands of passengers were held up.



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A surprisingly large number of schools also closed their doors for the day. In London more than 400 schools – one in five – were shut. In addition, 600 schools in Wales, all 400 in Birmingham, 300 in Herefordshire and Worcestershire, 175 in Gloucestershire, 200 in Essex, 100 in Cambridgeshire and 100 in Norfolk and Suffolk were closed by local authorities and head teachers. The childcare services website www.emergencychildcare.co.uk reported record demand for childminders and nursery places.

Fresh snow is unlikely today, but after a cold night the dangers are more likely to be ice on the roads and freezing fog. Cold enough to shut down the country once more? After yesterday, it seems entirely possible.

Michael McCarthy, Snow Falls, 9 February 2007 © The Independent

2 How does the writer persuade you that Britain's response to the snow is 'pathetic'?

In your answer, you should write about:

- the **information** the writer selects to persuade you
- the **language** and the **pictures** he chooses.

[21]

Turn over for Section B

SECTION B

You are advised to spend **no more than 35 minutes** on Section B.

Writing to INFORM, EXPLAIN, DESCRIBE

*This answer will be marked for writing. Plan your answer and write it carefully.
Leave enough time to check through what you have written.*

3 Which season do you prefer?

Explain what you like about it, and **describe** a scene or event you associate with it.

[21]

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- Q.1 Extract from Anne Karpf, Snow in England, The Guardian, 3 December 2005. © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2005, www.guardian.co.uk
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Q.2 Extract from Michael McCarthy, Snow Falls, 9 February 2007, © The Independent, www.independent.co.uk

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