
AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

SET O

Insert

The two sources that follows are:

Source A: 20th Century non-fiction

Women's and girls' football sees record growth in a historic four years for the game

An extract from a modern online article

Source B: 19th Century non-fiction

The Lady Footballers

An extract from a newspaper article written in 1896

Source A

Source A is taken from an online article about the rise of women's and girls' football. It summarises the progress made through a strategy called Inspiring Positive Change by the FA (Football Association).

We can now provide a final update on the progress made across our women's and girls' game strategy 'Inspiring Positive Change'.

5 Originally launched with the ambition of building a sustainable future for women's and girls' football, the duration of the strategy (over four years) has coincided with record levels of growth across the sport, turbocharged by the success of the Lionesses who have become European champions and World Cup finalists in the same period.

10 In the last four years, the number of women and girls playing football has increased by 56%. Knowing that, for most girls, their first taste of football comes in the playground or on the school playing fields, 'Inspiring Positive Change' set the target of 75% of schools to be offering girls equal access to football by the end of the strategy. That target was met and has now been surpassed, with 77% of schools offering equal access. There has also been a significant increase in the number of women and girls taking up coaching and refereeing.

15 The girls' talent pathway has been completely overhauled since the launch of the strategy, with the aim of making the professional game more accessible and inclusive. 73 Emerging Talent Centres have been established to offer localised, high-quality training environments, which has led to significant increases in players from under-represented groups (127%) and economically deprived areas (112%) being able to access the pathway.

20 The introduction of the Discover My Talent programme ensures any talented girl, from any background, can be referred onto the England radar, while the 21 Professional Game Academies are delivering crucial work to prepare young players for senior football.

25 The duration of the strategy has coincided with exponential growth across the domestic women's leagues and competitions. The Adobe Women's FA Cup Final has sold out at Wembley Stadium for the last two seasons and the competition has received record levels of investment. Attendances in the Barclays Women's Super League are also up 239%, and it has also become the most socially followed women's league in the world.

Baroness Sue Campbell, our director of women's football, said: "It is remarkable what has been achieved in just four years across all levels, with more women and girls stepping forward to play, coach, officiate and participate as fans. But there is still more work to be done for the sport to reach the heights we know it can grow to."

30 "It is our continued mission to increase diversity and make the women's game an accurate representation of our society. We're seeing an improvement, but we cannot rest on our laurels and we need to ensure every woman and girl, regardless of their background, can access football and enjoy the benefits it brings. There is every reason to be excited about where our game goes next, and I cannot wait to see where we will be in another four years' time."

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Source B

Source B is taken from a newspaper article which appeared in The Wicklow People in June 1896. In it, the British Ladies Football Team had travelled to Wexford in the Republic of Ireland to play a football match against the male St. Patrick's Gaelic football team.

For fully a week previous to the arrival of the British Ladies Football Team in Wexford, no other matter was discussed, and the various opinions expressed with regard to their visit proved at least that the subject had awakened a lively interest amongst all classes.

5 To some the idea of women engaging in such a manly game was repellant to the utmost degree, and this class used arguments to support their side of the question, in the course of which such words as "disgraceful", "abominable" and "immodest" were largely in evidence. Others held that a woman who was suitably attired* left as little
10 ground for comment as a female cyclist; that women were competing with men in every walk of life, and that though, on the surface, football for ladies appeared to be a strong order, there was a time when the notion of a lady swimmer or a woman senior wrangler* at a University filled the male mind with absolute and unmistakable horror. Both sides held their opinions to the last.

15 There was a third class who, simply looking upon football for ladies as rather an advanced idea, decided to be conspicuous by their absence on the occasion of the match. Football for men afforded them pleasure, but with the weaker sex as opponents, the experiment was not viewed by them with favour. In the end it must be admitted that the balance of opinion was decidedly against this innovation, and when
20 Monday came the large crowd expected to be in the Park were not there. The attendance was only a "middling" one, the fair sex being almost unrepresented, though no doubt the charge of sixpence for the field and one shilling for the stand kept many away.

25 As for the dress of the ladies, it left no room for complaint. Each of the players wore a loose blouse, cap, and short frock, and certainly the attire and the game were very far indeed removed from what some prudish persons predicted they would be. The Association, in which the visitors play, is novel in Wexford, but for the previous week the St. Patrick's team practised these football rules every evening with the result that, though the difference between it and Gaelic is very marked, the "frees" given for
30 "hands" and "off-side" were comparatively few. Certainly half of the male eleven which played on Monday would have beaten the females at their own game as, with the exception of the goal-keeper, one full back, and one forward, the others were wanting in pace. In addition to lack of speed, though they knew the technicalities of the game very well (being only penalised once), they lacked strength, their kicks were poor and all the force of the wind gave them little chance of their rivals, as any score they made
35 was by favour.

The game itself requires very little description, finishing in a draw. The game had to depend altogether on its novelty. Generally speaking, the spectators enjoyed it very much, as there was plenty of amusement in it, and all through the movements of the
40 players were watched with the keenest interest. It was stated that most of the women players were music hall artists.

Glossary

**attired = dressed*

**wrangler = At the University of Cambridge in England, a "Wrangler" is a student who gains first-class honours in the Mathematical Tripos competition. The highest-scoring student is the Senior Wrangler*

End of sources