Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

English Language

Paper 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing
Section A: Reading Texts Insert

Sample assessment materials for first teaching September 2015

Paper Reference
1EN0/02

Do not return the insert with the question paper.

Advice

- Read the texts before answering the questions in Section A of the question paper.

Turn over ▶

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PEARSON

Read the text below and answer Questions 1–3 on the question paper.

TEXT 1

This text is from a newspaper article about a recruitment drive for MI6.

Psst! Want to join MI6?

As Britain's foreign intelligence service celebrates its 100th anniversary, Neil Tweedie gets an insight into MI6's latest recruitment drive.

Recruiting for HM Secret Intelligence Service used to be a subtle, stylish business. One afternoon in term time, a promising undergraduate at Oxford or Cambridge would find himself invited to tea with the college talent spotter.

In the quiet of an oak-panelled study, the potential recruit (right school, right family) would be subjected to gentle interrogation over crumpets, before being asked (clink of spoon on china) if he had ever considered 'official work'. If the encounter proved satisfactory, the candidate received a letter inviting him to an interview. Fast–forward three years and there is our man in a crumpled linen suit, sitting in a Lisbon café sizing up his target, a Czech military attaché.

SIS, popularly known as MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence service, which this year celebrates its 100th birthday, has tiptoed into the modern world. Faced with the threat of international terrorism it has had to cast its net wider than the cloisters[1] of Oxbridge[2] and a few other favoured universities to find recruits who look the part. That increasingly means people from the ethnic minorities.

There is a demand for more women, too. Not just bluestockings[3], but the kind who know what to do with scatter cushions. Only that could explain the presence of *Good Housekeeping* at a recent SIS press conference held at Tate Modern in London, intended to stimulate more applications from target groups.

It was a curious affair, a rare venturing out of the shadows for serving SIS officers – but also very conventional. "Work you can believe in. Colleagues you can trust," promised the displays. There were four of them: a historian from the Cabinet Office called Mark, a senior SIS recruiting officer called John and two younger officers, Catherine and Nick. No one asked if these were their real names but it would have been disappointing if they were. John would have stood out in a crowd — tall, elegant, forties, patrician — but Nick and Catherine were very normal. He was black, thirties, smart — typical young businessman; she was attractive, friendly, early thirties — might have been a French teacher.

The ladies from *Good Housekeeping*, *Cosmopolitan* and *Marie Claire* wanted lifestyle. What was it like being a spy? Could you tell your mum? Nick, a softly-spoken south Londoner, state educated and first in his family to attend university, was talent spotted 10 years ago. He could hardly not tell his wife, who worked in the City, and had informed his mother and father. But he had managed to conceal his clandestine life from his friends. Based at 'head office' in London, following assignments in Africa and the Middle East, Nick was initially attracted to MI6 by the chance to travel – an SIS officer may spend months in a country absorbing its culture. After joining he was 'amazed' how friendly it was. "Occasionally you do work long hours. It might be midnight in the UK but it's midday in another part of the world. But I do get to drop my daughter at nursery and pick her up."

Catherine joined SIS nine years ago after applying for the Foreign Office. Her concern was that it might be dangerous, "but I can tell you that it's not. The safety of staff is paramount. You are never asked to do anything you are not happy with."

The selection process takes nine months for a successful candidate, beginning with the online application form. Applicants must be British and hold a 2:2 degree or above.

Up to 80 per cent of applicants fail the application form. Half the applicants selected for first interview fall at that hurdle, and half the remainder fail the second interview. The process continues with an assessment course. Five per cent of applicants fail personal vetting.

What kind of people do SIS want in their recruitment in-tray? "Motivated problem-solvers who do not crave the limelight. People who are good at building relationships. You may have to ask people to supply information that may place them in danger."

[1] open areas surrounded by walkways
[2] the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, the oldest universities in the United Kingdom
[3] educated, intelligent women

(Source: © Want to join MI6, Neil Tweedie, Telegraph)

Read the text below and answer Questions 4–7 on the question paper.

TEXT 2

Leo Marks worked in Intelligence during World War 2. He was responsible for breaking codes to uncover enemy information. In this extract he describes how a complex code was solved to uncover a secret message.

The first message was fifty letters long, the second fifty-five and the third only twenty. The first step was to take a frequency count of the individual letters, then of the pairs of letters and finally of the three-letter combinations. The girls, some of whom had come armed with German dictionaries, set about this tedious task as if they were embarking on an early-morning run. It became increasingly uphill.

The frequency count confirmed that a substitution code had been used, and it seemed safe to assume that with millions of guilders[1] at stake the government-in-exile would use an unbreakable code, and I proceeded on that basis. And got nowhere.

After three days of trying every permutation I could think of, the girls had lost all confidence in me and I was pleased with their good judgement. I was now on the floor myself, with my self-esteem more crumpled than the day's newspaper. I opened my eyes and discovered that my hand was resting on something. It was a copy of an agent's Playfair code, an elementary system suitable for concealing brief messages in 'innocent letters', but for very little else. It was marginally more secure than invisible ink. But could Playfair be the answer? It would explain the lack of indicators, the frequency of the consonants and the repetition of the pairs of letters. And it was possible that the three messages had been enciphered[2] on the same Playfair phrase.

I hurried in to the girls, who were less than pleased to see me. Doing my best not to stammer, I said that there was one last thing to be tried.

'Our patience,' one of them whispered.

I showed them how to break Playfair (it was just tricky enough to interest them) and then hurried away.

After slogging away for twenty-four hours without the slightest success the telephone rang. It was the team supervisor, but I could hardly hear what she was saying above the babble in the background. One of the girls thought she'd found a German word, but the linguist was convinced it was Dutch.

She was right.

Two hours later the messages were clear, and the cheer that went up in the code room could have been heard in the Netherlands.

[1] the currency of the Netherlands during World War 2
[2] information converted from plain text into a code

Sources:

© Want to join MI6, Neil Tweedie, Telegraph
'20th Century Non-Fiction 'Between Silk and Cyanide: A Code Maker's War 1941–1945' by Leo Marks (1998)

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Write your name here

Surname	Other names

Pearson Edexcel
Level 1/Level 2
GCSE (9–1)

Centre Number | | | | | |

Candidate Number | | | | |

English Language

Paper 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

Sample assessment materials for first teaching
September 2015
Time: 2 hours and 5 minutes

Paper Reference
1EN0/02

You must have:
Reading Texts Insert

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 and **ONE** in Section B.
- You should spend about 1 hour and 20 minutes on Section A.
- You should spend about 45 minutes on Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
  – *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 96.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
  – *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Questions labelled with an **asterisk** (*) are ones where the quality of your written communication will be assessed
  – *you should take particular care on these questions with your use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar, as well as the clarity of expression.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ▶

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PEARSON

SECTION A

Reading

Read Text 1. Then answer Questions 1–3.

You should spend about 1 hour 20 minutes on the WHOLE of Section A (Questions 1–7).

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

1 In lines 41–49, identify **two** requirements needed by people to be recruited by MI6 (SIS).

1 .....

2 .....

(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)

2 Read this extract.

> SIS, popularly known as MI6, Britain's foreign intelligence service, which this year celebrates its 100th birthday, has tiptoed into the modern world. Faced with the threat of international terrorism it has had to cast its net wider than the cloisters of Oxbridge and a few other favoured universities to find recruits who look the part. That increasingly means people from the ethnic minorities.
>
> There is a demand for more women, too. Not just bluestockings, but the kind who know what to do with scatter cushions. Only that could explain the presence of *Good Housekeeping* at a recent SIS press conference held at Tate Modern in London, intended to stimulate more applications from target groups.

Give **two** types of people MI6 want to recruit.

You may use your own words or quotations from the text.

.....

.....

.....

.....

(Total for Question 2 = 2 marks)

3 Analyse how the writer uses language and structure to interest and engage readers.

In your answer you should write about:

- language features and techniques
- structural features and techniques
- the effect on the reader.

Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15)

(Total for Question 3 = 15 marks)

Read Text 2. Then answer Questions 4–6.

Write your answers in the spaces provided.

4 How many messages does Leo Marks have to de-code?

.....

(Total for Question 4 = 1 mark)

5 Read this extract.

> … One of the girls thought she'd found a German word, but the linguist was convinced it was Dutch.
>
> She was right.
>
> Two hours later the messages were clear, and the cheer that went up in the code room could have been heard in the Netherlands.

Identify the phrase which shows how long it took to break the code.

.....

.....

(Total for Question 5 = 1 mark)

6 Leo Marks attempts to engage the reader through the description of his relationship with 'the girls'.

Evaluate how successfully this is achieved.
Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15)

(Total for Question 6 = 15 marks)

Question 7 is about Text 1 and Text 2. Answer both parts of the question. Refer to both texts in your answers.

Write your answer in the space provided.

7 (a) The two texts show the points of view of different spies.

What similarities do the spies Nick and Leo share in these texts?

Use evidence from both texts to support your answer.

(6)

(b) Compare how the writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present their ideas and perspectives about intelligence agency work.

You should write about:

- the ideas and perspectives of the writers
- how they are presented
- how they are similar/different.

Support your answer with detailed reference to the texts.

(14)

(Total for Question 7 = 20 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 56 MARKS

SECTION B

Transactional Writing

Answer ONE question. You should spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write your answer in the space provided.

EITHER

***8** Write a letter to MI6, applying for a position as an Intelligence Officer.

In your letter you could:

- state why you are interested in the position
- describe the experience and skills that make you a good candidate
- explain the difference you can make to your country

as well as any other ideas you might have.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)

OR

***9** Write an article for a newspaper, exploring how technology can track our movements.

You could write about:

- the ways we are tracked, e.g. phones, computers, CCTV, supermarket scanners
- who tracks us, e.g. the police, large businesses, the government
- what the benefits are and/or what the problems could be

as well as any other ideas you might have.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

(Total for Question 9 = 40 marks)

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 8** ☒ **Question 9** ☒

Plan your answer to Section B here:

Write your answer to Section B here:

TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 40 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 96 MARKS