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# INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Paper 1 Literary Non-fiction and Composition

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Monday 04 November 2019

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an 8-page Answer Book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your Answer Book.
- Answer **all** questions from **Section A**. Answer **one** question from **Section B**.
- Write your answers in the Answer Book provided.
- Do all rough work in your Answer Book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**:  
30 marks are awarded for communication and organisation;  
10 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

### Advice

- You should spend about 1 hour on **Section A** and about 1 hour on **Section B**.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

### Section A

Answer **all** questions in this section.  
You should spend about 1 hour on this section.

*The passage below was written by a well-known naturalist. In it, he recalls an early expedition he made with two companions, to Arakaka in Guyana, South America. The expedition was in 1955 and they were in search of rare animals.*

Read **lines 01 to 10** and answer **Question 01**.

That evening we were surprised to hear the throbbing of an engine. As dusk fell a large boat came round the bend of the river and moored by the village. The East Indian captain in charge told us that he was bringing up stores and mail for the mining company and that the next day he would be continuing to Arakaka. He asked us if we would like to go with him, and we accepted readily: it seemed at last that we might reach our destination. 01 05

Early in the morning we carried our kit down to the boat. Most of the boat was occupied by cargo, and there was one other passenger, a big cheerful African woman who was introduced to us as Gertie. Nevertheless there was plenty of room for us and, after the tiny dugout canoe, we thought it luxurious. We lay back in the bows of the boat and all three of us drifted off to sleep. 10

#### Question 1

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 What do you learn about the boat?

[4 marks]

Now read **lines 11 to 23** and answer **Question 02**.

At four o'clock that afternoon we arrived at Arakaka. From the river it looked a charming and ideal place: a string of small houses perched on the high bank, backed by tall, feathery bamboo swaying in the wind. When we landed, however, the charm dissolved. Two-thirds of the houses were stores and behind them, in muddy squalor, stood the broken-down wooden shanties in which the villagers lived. 11 15

Fifty years ago, Arakaka had been a flourishing community of several hundred people. There had been rich gold mines in the forest nearby and it was said that the mining managers of those days used to drive with their wives in coaches along the main street. Most of the houses had fallen down, rotted and been reclaimed by the forest. An air of destruction and decay hung over the town as it crumbled in the heat. Near one of the shanties we found, hidden beneath a blanket of creepers, a weathered wooden table. Its feet were still embedded in decaying mortar and it stood on a platform of brickwork which was cracked and split by the roots of the plants which concealed it. 'The hospital stood here', we were told, 'and that's the old mortuary table.' 20 23

#### Question 2

0	2
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 How does the writer convey the decay of Arakaka?

[8 marks]

Now read **lines 24 to 41** and answer **Question 03**.

We went into one of the shops. A tall muscular young African man sat on a bench with an enamel mug in his hand. 24 25

'What you come up this way for, man?' he asked.

We said we were looking for animals. 27

'Well there's plenty here,' he said, 'an' I can catch 'em easy.'	28
Gertie, our fellow passenger on the boat, strolled into the shop.	
She leaned on the counter and looked hard in the Chinese storekeeper's eyes.	30
'Mister,' she said soulfully, 'the boys on the boat is telling me that there's plenty vampire bats up here. What can I do, 'cause I ain't got no mosquito net for my hammock?'	
'You ain't bothered 'bout vampires, is you, ma?' said the African man with the enamel mug.	
'I certainly am', she replied stoutly. 'My psychological disposition is highly nervous.'	35
The man blinked hard. Gertie switched her attentions back to the storekeeper.	
'Now, what you got to give me?' she said, with a simpering smile.	
'I ain't got nothing to give, ma; but for two dollar I can sell you a lamp. That will keep the vampires away for sure.'	
'Really, mister,' she said with exaggerated self-importance, 'I must add that my financial basis is very meagre.' She gave a laugh. 'Gimme a two-cent candle.'	40 41

### Question 3

**0 3** What do you learn about Gertie from this conversation?

[6 marks]

Now read **lines 42 to 63** and answer **Question 04**.

Later that evening, my psychological disposition, like Gertie's, also became highly nervous, and for the same reason. We were staying in a decaying rest-house near the store. Jack and Charles went to sleep quickly underneath their mosquito nets, but I unfortunately had mislaid mine and for the past four days had been without one. Accordingly, because of Gertie's warning of vampire bats, I hung a lighted paraffin lamp at the end of my hammock. Ten minutes later, as I lay trying to sleep, a bat silently flapped in through the open window. It flew over my hammock, round the room, into the passage, back again under my hammock and out of the window. Every two minutes it came in and repeated this flight with unnerving regularity.	42 45
Without catching it, I could not be certain that it was a vampire bat.	50
It did not seem to possess the elaborate leaf-shaped structure on its nose which many harmless bats have and which vampires lack. Although I could not see them, I felt sure it was armed with the pair of triangular razor-sharp front teeth with which vampires shave a thin section of skin from their victim. Having made the wound, they will squat by it and lap up the blood. This they are able to do without disturbing a man's sleep, so that in the morning the only sign of their visitation is a blood-soaked blanket, though three weeks later the man may develop the dreadful disease of paralytic rabies.	55
I found it difficult to believe in the storekeeper's promise that vampires will never settle to feed where there is light, and my fears seemed to be justified when it suddenly settled in the far corner of the room and, in typical vampire bat fashion, began to scuttle around on the floor, its wings folded back along its forearms, so that it resembled some foul four-legged spider. I could stand it no longer. I reached below my hammock, picked up one of my boots and hurled it at the beast. It took to flight and disappeared through the window.	60 63

### Question 4

**0 4** Why does the writer feel 'highly nervous' later that evening?

[8 marks]

**Turn over for the next section**

**Turn over ►**

Now read **lines 64 to 89** and answer **Question 05**.

Within twenty minutes I was feeling almost grateful to the vampire, for the thought of it kept me  
 awake for a long time and, as a result, I was able to achieve something which had become an  
 obsession with me over the past few weeks: the recording of one of the most eerie sounds of  
 the South American forest.

I had first heard this noise on our trip up the Kukui river. We had pitched camp in the  
 forest by the river and slung our hammocks between the trees. As we went to sleep the light of  
 the stars twinkled through the leaves above. The ghostly shapes of bushes and creepers  
 loomed around us. Suddenly, throbbing and echoing through the forest came a screeching yell  
 rising in great crescendoes of blood-chilling loudness and then dying away to a moan like the  
 sound of a gale wailing through telegraph wires. This terrifying noise was produced by nothing  
 more fearsome than the howler monkey.

For weeks I had tried to record it. Every night that we were in the forest I had fitted a  
 microphone into a parabolic sound reflector, and loaded the recorder with new tape. Night after  
 night we would hear nothing. Then one evening we would get to camp very late and very tired,  
 and I would be too exhausted to set up the equipment. Once, on the Kukui, I thought that I had  
 achieved success. The monkeys were so close that the noise was deafening and for once the  
 recording equipment was ready. I switched it on and for several minutes recorded the most  
 brilliant and terrifying howls I had heard. When the performance finished with two final yapping  
 barks, I triumphantly wound back the tape and roused Charles from his hammock to hear it. The  
 entire tape was blank; one of the valves had broken during the day's journey.

Now, at last, thanks to the vampire bat, I was awake right at the beginning of a chorus.  
 The monkeys were probably half a mile away but even so the noise was extremely loud. I  
 dragged the equipment out of the rest-house, set everything up and carefully aimed my  
 parabolic reflector in the direction from which the sound was coming. After my previous  
 experience I did not play the tape back to Charles until the morning. We listened to it together.  
 The recording was perfect!

### Question 5

**0 5** How does the writer use language to describe the sounds made by the howler monkeys?  
**[8 marks]**

Now think about the **whole** passage and answer **Question 06**.

### Question 6

**0 6** What do you learn about the man telling this story from reading the whole passage?  
**[6 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **one** question in this section.  
You should spend about 1 hour on this section.

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**Remember to:**

- spend time thinking about the question and planning your ideas
- organise your ideas into paragraphs
- communicate clearly
- spend 5 minutes checking and editing your writing.

**Either****Question 7**

0	7
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Write a story with the title: 'Success!'

**[40 marks]****Or****Question 8**

0	8
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'People must take greater responsibility for the preservation of animal life on Earth.'  
Discuss.

**[40 marks]****Or****Question 9**

0	9
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Describe a time when you were nervous or frightened or both.

**[40 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

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