
INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Literary Non-fiction and Composition

Wednesday 15 May 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 writer is a man who travels widely and writes about his travels across the globe. In this passage he describes an incident which occurred on his journey to Khartoum in Sudan.

Read lines **1** to **12** and answer **Question 01**.

It was my 'year of living dangerously' in Africa, an overland journey from Cape to Cairo by any means I could find or afford – trains, boats, buses, walking, hitching. I knew the 2000-mile leg between Nairobi and Khartoum would be the most difficult because there wasn't any public transport and not much in the way of private vehicles that might be willing to give me a ride. Southern Sudan wasn't an independent nation yet and the country was still plagued by its long civil war. But there was a temporary ceasefire and I decided to take the chance of venturing across Sudan. 05

I rode buses to northern Kenya and then hooked up with an overland truck and a handful of other young Western travellers headed north. Crossing the Turkana Desert was easy, and other than getting stuck in the mud a couple of times – and having to dig out the truck – we managed to make it across the Sudd swamps without major incident. Reaching the town of Wau on the northern edge of the wetlands, we figured the worst was behind us. 10

Question 1

0	1
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 What problems does the writer face on his journey?

[4 marks]

Now read lines **13** to **27** and answer **Question 02**.

What we hadn't counted on was freakish weather. Heavy rains had washed away both the road and the rail line between Wau and Khartoum, creating a 150-mile-wide flood zone that was virtually impossible to cross. The local cops estimated it might be a month before anyone could get through. 15

Stunned by the news, we retreated to discuss our options. We could try to make an end run out west around the flood zone, but that would take us through Darfur and its notorious bandits. We could backtrack 400 miles to Juba and hope the Nile ferry was running. Or we could sit tight in Wau and wait for the water to recede. 20

Wau was the lesser of the evils, but not by much. Founded by slave traders in the 19th century, the town had grown into a market and administrative centre for much of central Sudan. Most of the buildings were shabby cinderblock or mud-brick, the streets so covered with sand, dust and cow manure it was hard to tell they were paved. The terrace in front of the hospital was littered with used hypodermic syringes and other medical waste. And there were vultures everywhere picking at the garbage. Adding to our misery was persistent heat, humidity and insects. There was no way we could spend a month here without losing our minds. 25

Question 2

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 Explain what Wau is like, according to the writer.

[6 marks]

Now read **lines 28 to 50** and answer **Question 03**.

On our fifth morning in Wau, a man came running into the orchard shouting, “The train, the train – it is here!” Having had so many false alarms, we didn’t know whether to believe it or not. But as we walked into the center of town, it became obvious that something was up. People with handcarts, pack animals and bags were rushing toward the station. There must be a train, we thought. And then lo and behold, there it was: a raggedy line of box cars and passenger coaches behind an old General Electric diesel. The stationmaster told us it would depart for Khartoum in precisely three hours. 30

Five of us decided to ride the rails rather than stay another night in Wau – myself, three young Brits and a Greek-Lebanese student who spoke fluent Arabic. We’d come up from Kenya together and were well acquainted by now. 35

Gathering our things together, we rushed back to the station – and utter pandemonium. Hundreds of Sudanese had laid siege to the ticket windows; soldiers with rifles trying to keep them at bay. Mayhem broke out, then the signal was given that tickets were finally on sale – people jumping over one another, screaming, punching, clawing like animals, anything they could do to get tickets and get the hell out of Wau. But even then the panic wasn’t over. After buying their tickets, the passengers made a mad dash to secure their spots on the train, crashing through the train doors, forcing their baggage through windows and crawling up to the roof. 40 45

By the time we elbowed our way to a ticket window, the train was nearly full. We slumped into the hard wooden seats to enjoy our grand departure. A locomotive whistle shrieked and the train lurched forward. Up and down the train, passengers screamed with excitement as the journey began. We slowly chugged past the grass huts and millet fields on the north edge of town and suddenly Wau was gone. 50

Question 3

0	3
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How does the writer use language to create a sense of panic?

[8 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Now read **lines 51 to 68** and answer **Question 04**.

Four days later...

Five of us stumble through the streets of Kosti in the middle of the night, trying to put as much distance as possible between ourselves and the thugs who are chasing us. We are literally running for our lives.

I have just done something amazingly brilliant or incredibly stupid. I have told the scar- 55
faced sergeant of the platoon protecting a train that's just brought us halfway across Sudan that
under no circumstances are we going to pay the bribes that just about everyone else on the
train has been shelling out over the past four days. Not only that, but we have confronted him
openly in front of the locals – people who normally don't see anyone challenge his venomous
authority – causing a loss of face that no doubt outweighs the value of the cash he was trying to 60
scam from us.

And once that die was cast, the only thing to do was run as fast as we could, find a place
to hide until first light, and hope that Scarface and his men would tire of the chase, crawl back
onto the train and chug away. Because the alternative – getting caught – was unthinkable. We'd
seen how Scarface and his men had dealt with Sudanese passengers who didn't comply – 65
beating them with leather strips and rifle butts, tossing them off the train in the middle of
nowhere. And we had no illusions that they would deal any less harshly with us, five young
foreigners travelling across their country.

Question 4

0	4
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Explain why the writer is trying to find a place to hide.

[6 marks]

Now read **lines 69 to 89** and answer **Question 05**.

Gasping for air, we came upon the darkened bus station. We looked around. Nothing but silence and a stray dog shuffling across the road. But then in the murky distance, half a dozen men running our way. Scarface and his troopers, armed to the teeth and bent on revenge. 70

Opposite the bus station was a large open-café. It was closed for the night, tables upturned, and that's where we took refuge. If they found us, so be it. But we couldn't keep running forever. Hunched behind one of the tables, all sorts of thoughts ran through my mind. Nobody in the outside world had the faintest idea where I was at this point in time. Scarface and his men could do pretty much anything they wanted to us – torture, prison, even death – and nobody would ever know the difference. You hear about people disappearing without a trace during their travels. And it suddenly occurred to me that the five of us might soon be among those gruesome statistics. 75

There was a rush of footsteps into the square. Scarface and his men, speaking in Arabic, pointing up and down the street, no doubt trying to figure out which way we had fled. The sergeant barked orders and they began to fan out in different directions. One of them looked around at the café where we were hunkered down, took a tentative step our way... 80

That's when fate intervened. From a distance came a whistle, a signal that the train was about to depart. Scarface and the soldiers gathered in the middle of the street for a hectic confab. I didn't need a translator to tell me they were discussing whether to return to the train or continue their pursuit. But in the end, the prospect of missing their ride to Khartoum overruled their greed. They turned up the street, jogging back towards the river and the train station. At daybreak we boarded a bus for Khartoum. We never saw Scarface again. 85

Question 5

0	5
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 How does the writer convey the danger of the situation?

[8 marks]

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

Question 6

0	6
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 What do you learn about the man telling the story?

[8 marks]

Turn over for the next section

Turn over ►

Section B

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

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: 'The Revenge.'

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

0	8
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Describe a place you do **not** like.**[40 marks]****Or****Question 9**

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'Travel extends our understanding of the world.' Discuss.

[40 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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