
INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Literary Non-fiction and Composition

Monday 26 October 2020

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an Oxford International AQA Examinations 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 an environmental journalist. In this passage he recounts a visit to the Amazon rainforest.

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

The sunlight vanishes, the temperature soars and a lot of hysterical screeching begins. I know that's what's meant to happen in rainforests and for years I have been vaguely sympathetic to the idea of saving them. But now I'm inside one, I'm uneasy. 01

What everyone knows about the rainforest is that it rains, often every day, sometimes almost all the time, rather like standing in a sauna under a hot shower. A soaking is to be expected, as is the resulting soupy mess of rainwater mingled with sun block and insect spray and lots of sweat. 05

But what no one tells you about rainforests is that they feature another form of rain as well: a gentle but constant precipitation of ants, bugs and assorted wrigglers tumbling from the dark heights. Whole ecosystems flourish in the canopies - their existence in the tree-tops is one of the wonders of the natural world - but, unfortunately, not all of them are very good at staying up there. 10 12

Question 1

0	1
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 What does the writer find unsettling about being in a rainforest?

[5 marks]

Now read **lines 13 to 34** and answer **Question 02**.

Riding on the back of a quad bike, I happen to glance down at my shirt. It's heaving with a mass of creatures, mostly tiny, but one particularly assertive ant seems the size of a paper-clip. And because I'm looking down while I frantically swat away these invaders, my neck is exposed and it becomes a landing-zone too. I react with horror and manically flick and brush. At first I seem to be winning this struggle. But then I notice that a few of the pluckier arrivals are roaming freely over my hands. 13 15

We stop at a tiny clearing. Suddenly I hear a loud yelp and spin round to an extraordinary sight. Our cameraman, John Boon, is twisting in pain. Flavio, our guide, is thrashing him on the back with his hat. 20

I run up, confused.

The answer lies on the ground. Reaching down, Flavio picks up a red-and-white-striped insect the size of a wasp.

It's a type of mosquito, he says. It was on John's shirt and trying to punch through. If it had stung him, you could forget filming for a few days. 25

He points out the insect's proboscis: it's thick and sturdy like a hypodermic needle, so out of proportion with the insect's body it's like a child holding a rifle.

We shudder, but time is short so we press on. But then we're shaken again by another surge of primal fear as a familiar black shape scuttles towards us: it's a scorpion, several inches long, tail poised. 30

It's okay, says Flavio. You only need to worry if it's got a red dot. Otherwise it won't actually kill you. I can't tell if it has a red dot. All I know is that I'm sure rainforests need saving - in theory. But saving this bit, in practice, right this minute, every creature? Up to a point. 34

Question 2

0	2
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 How does the writer convey his attitude to the creatures in the rainforest?
[8 marks]

Now read **lines 35 to 59** and answer **Question 03**.

A bumpy track leads us towards what I'm told is a fresh example of deforestation. I think I know 35
 what it will look like - I've seen pictures of this kind of thing: the lone tree, the miles of bare dry
 soil, the forlorn trunk on its side.

But as we turn a corner, I enter a scene where I realise my assumptions could not have
 been more wrong. Huge stumps lie in their thousands, many of them charred, and the red earth 40
 beneath them is churned into ugly ridges. The clearance is like a giant prairie heaped with junk
 timber. Nothing seems left alive. Amid the shattered trunks, their branches twisted, there are no
 birds. Countless wisps of smoke turn the sky grey. None of the images I'd seen before remotely
 captures the enormity of this destruction. And there's something unimaginable in the Amazon:
 the insects seem to have vanished. Of course, I realise - there's no canopy for them to rain 45
 down from.

The atmosphere, particularly the silence, reminds me of urban warfare, battles waged in
 streets. The wrecked trees, even lying on their sides, are as tall as buildings and are grey like
 concrete. I recall the fighting for control of the scarred town of Gornji Vakuf in Bosnia. Like the
 destroyed forest, the town had thin columns of smoke twisting into the air, the whole place
 seeming winded. What I'm looking at now resembles the same kind of carnage, except that it 50
 wasn't caused by tanks and artillery.

It was bulldozers. Linked by chains.

I'm with an environmental officer, Ernesto, one of a small band of officials trying to stop
 deforestation. The bulldozers, Ernesto explains, are brought in on trucks and at the edge of the
 forest the heavy chains are slung between them. The vehicles then advance side-by-side, in 55
 military formation, and everything in their path gets torn down. The trees are felled, the stumps
 uprooted, the wreckage is then set alight and eventually ploughed ready to be used for
 agriculture - either as pasture for cattle or fields for cultivating soya beans. From land that's dirt
 cheap, beef and beans fetch high prices on the global markets. 59

Question 3

0	3
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 How does the writer create a picture of deforestation for the reader?
[10 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Turn over ►

Now read **lines 60 to 108** and answer **Question 04**.

But surely it's illegal?

60

Yes, says Ernesto, but there are loopholes. Virgin rainforest has the strongest protection in law but to retain that status it has to remain untouched; once it's been tampered with in any way, it's classified differently and enjoys less protection. So landowners encourage small-scale loggers to push into the virgin forest and extract the most valuable trees. When the work of the loggers is 'discovered', the landowner can exclaim in horror that his forest is no longer 'virgin' which just happens to mean, rather conveniently, that the penalties for any further deforestation are much lighter. And that's when the bulldozers are brought in.

65

Just as Ernesto is explaining this, we spot a truck in the distance, parked close to the edge of the remaining forest. He's immediately suspicious and we race over. In the front of the truck is our escort, a policeman, who's armed. Confrontations can turn ugly. The land beneath the trees can yield so much money that it's triggered an equivalent to a gold rush, anarchic and unrestrained.

70

When we reach the truck, a battered old thing, there's no one around. But loaded into it are four freshly felled trunks. The policeman checks his revolver and goes off in search of the loggers. He enters the forest, calling out, pushing through the undergrowth. We follow him, past a severed stump - and heaps of bright sawdust scattered nearby. It's like stumbling into a crime scene just minutes after the act. We press on, the policeman's shouts echoing off the wood. And the din produces a result.

75

One of the loggers appears, dressed in a stained football shirt, a sheepish grin on his face. The game is up.

80

The ringleader stumbles out too, hot and irritated, shirt slung over his shoulder, brushing flies from his bare chest. He's been caught red-handed and admits it. Two more trunks and his truck would have had a full load. Now he knows that the timber will be confiscated and that he'll be fined. He's resigned to his fate.

Do you know that what you're doing here is illegal?

85

He nods, and Ernesto, translating, confirms that he knows the logging is wrong.

So why do you do it?

To make money, he says.

But what for?

He and Ernesto engage in a long discussion. It turns out the logger is trying to pay off a fine.

90

What for?

For a previous time he was caught logging.

So this is a way of life, and he's just one of thousands of men, pushing into the jungle, carving new inroads, paving the way for the big agro-industrialists. It's a march on countless fronts and seems unstoppable.

95

Much of the soya grown where the trees once stood is shipped across the Atlantic to the UK. It's used in everything from chicken-feed to margarine. The soya produced in the Amazon has a particular attraction: it is not genetically modified. Soya from the world's other big producer, America, is GM. So, as long as we choose to avoid GM food, the processors and supermarkets opt for Amazonian soya rather than American, a choice with a consequence. Standing by the four tree trunks, I realise that their felling did not happen in isolation.

100

Ernesto instructs the gang to drive straight to the environmental police compound. The tree trunks will be impounded and added to a stack of thousands of others. More fines will be levied. The men look miserable, their day's labour wasted. Their truck starts up in a cloud of smoke. It will be impounded too. They crawl towards the main road for the two-hour drive to Santarem, the prized logs now a burden. It'll be dark by the time they reach it and I surprise myself: I actually feel a bit sorry for them.

105

108

Question 4

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Why do you think the writer feels 'a bit sorry' for the men?

[7 marks]Now think about the **whole** passage and answer **Question 05**.**Question 5**

0	5
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What do you learn from the **whole** passage about the problems facing those trying to save the rainforest?**[10 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 6**

0	6
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Describe a scene from the natural world.

[40 marks]**Or****Question 7**

0	7
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Write a story with the title: 'The game is up!'

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

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'All choices have consequences.' Discuss

[40 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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