

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Literary Non-fiction and Composition

Friday 12 May 2023

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, and her husband, Lawrence, own the Thula Thula game reserve in Zululand, South Africa. In this passage, she describes their life with a herd of elephants that they rescued.

Read **lines 01 to 07** and answer **Question 1**.

Violent weather always unsettled our elephants, and the predicted gale-force winds meant there was a danger of trees blowing over and causing damage to Thula Thula's perimeter fence. The cyclone had threatened for days, and while we desperately needed water after a scorching summer, we definitely didn't need a tropical storm. We were worried about the elephant herd, but my husband Lawrence and I were confident that, somewhere in the vast expanse of our game reserve, they had been led to safety by their new matriarch, and my namesake, Frankie. 01
05
07

Question 1

0	1
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 Explain why the writer is worried.

[5 marks]

Now read **lines 08 to 20** and answer **Question 2**.

We hadn't seen them near the house in a while and I missed them. 08

Whenever they visited, their trunks immediately curled up to 'read' our house. Were we home? Where were the dogs? Was that a whiff of a new bougainvillea flowering? 10

No matter how much we treasured their visits, we knew it wasn't safe for them to be this comfortable around humans. The risk of poachers taking advantage of their trust was too high, so we planned to slowly wean them off us, or to be more accurate, wean *ourselves* off them. Not that Lawrence would dream of giving up his beloved Nana, the herd's original matriarch; theirs was a two-way friendship because Nana had no intention of giving him up either. 15

They met in secret. Lawrence would park his battered Land Rover half a kilometre away from the herd and wait. Nana would catch his scent in the air, quietly separate from the others, and amble towards him through the dense scrubland, trunk high in delighted greeting. He would tell her about his day and no doubt she told him about hers with soft throaty rumbles and trunk-tip touches. 20

Question 2

0	2
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 How does the writer present hers and Lawrence's relationship with the elephants?

[8 marks]

Now read **lines 21 to 54** and answer **Question 3**.

What a difference to the distressed creature that had arrived at Thula Thula back in 1999! 21

When a representative of an animal welfare organization asked us to adopt a rogue herd of elephants, we were astounded. We knew nothing about keeping elephants, nor did we have the required secure enclosure within the reserve where they could stay until they adjusted to their new life with us. 25

‘The woman must know we don’t have any experience,’ I said to Lawrence. ‘Why us?’

‘Probably because no one else is stupid enough; but Frankie, if we say no, they’re going to be shot, even the babies.’

I was horrified. ‘Phone her and say yes. We’ll make a plan somehow. We always do.’

Two weeks later, in the middle of a night of torrential rain, three huge articulated trucks brought them to us. When I saw the size of the vehicles, I was hit by the full impact of what was arriving. Two breeding adult females, two teenagers, and three little ones under the age of ten. We knew enough about elephants by then to know that if there were going to be problems, they’d come from the older ones. Lawrence and I exchanged glances. *Let the enclosure hold.* 30 35

Just as the trucks pulled up at the game reserve, a tyre exploded and the vehicle tilted dangerously in the mud. My heart froze at the elephants’ terrified trumpeting and screeching. It was only at dawn that we managed to get them into the safety of the new enclosure.

The pressure to settle them down was terrible and my life changed overnight. From worrying about cobras or scorpions in my bedroom, to lying awake, waiting for Lawrence to come home, scared stiff he was being trampled to death in his desperation to persuade the elephants to accept their new home. Night after night, he stayed as close to the enclosure as he dared, singing to them, talking to them and telling them stories until he was hoarse. With tender determination and no shortage of madness, Lawrence broke through Nana’s terror of man and gained her trust. 40 45

One hot afternoon, he came home and literally bounced up the steps towards me.

‘You won’t believe what happened,’ he said, still awestruck. ‘Nana put her trunk through the fence and touched my hand.’

My eyes widened in shock. Nana could have slung her trunk around his body and yanked him through the wires. 50

‘How did you know she wouldn’t hurt you?’

‘You know when you can sense someone’s mood without a word being spoken? That’s what it was like. She isn’t angry anymore and she isn’t frightened. In fact, I think she is telling me they’re ready to explore their new home.’ 54

Question 3

0	3
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Explain why the writer was concerned about keeping elephants.

[8 marks]

Now read **lines 55 to 94** and answer **Question 4**.

Over the next thirteen years the herd became our family, so we were extremely worried when the storm warnings worsened and the risk of the cyclone smashing into us increased with every passing hour. 55

Lawrence was away on business and I was on my own. Cyclones are rare in Zululand but when they strike, their devastation can be catastrophic.

In the middle of this chaos, at seven o'clock on Friday morning, 2 March 2012, I received a call telling me that my indestructible husband had died of a heart attack during the night. I didn't believe it. I sank into the bed, numb with shock. 60

The game reserve fell silent in disbelief.

Like a robot, I kept going. Then, Mother Nature gave us an incredible reprieve and 'Cyclone Irena' veered offshore. The crisis was over. We let out a collective groan of relief and prepared to stare grief in the face. 65

Very early on Sunday morning, I received a call informing me that the herd had surfaced and were on the move.

One of the game-keepers, Promise, was the first to see the herd and he almost drove into them. They were right at the gate to the compound, making it impossible for him to drive through. He immediately noticed something odd. 70

'Even the bulls are here,' he reported.

Bachelor elephants tend to stay away from the others, or, if they are close by, they stay out of sight. But that morning, all twenty-two members of the herd jostled about at the gate, clearly agitated. This was highly unusual because their visits were normally so serene. 75

The Sunday after Lawrence died was completely different. They were restless and pacing. They walked in a disorganized jumble to the front of the house, stayed there for a few minutes and then shouldered their way to the back of the house again, never grazing, always moving.

'They were disturbed but I had no idea why. I thought maybe they had had a run-in with poachers. When I got closer, I saw the tell-tale streaks of stress on the sides of their faces, even the babies,' Promise said afterwards, rubbing his own cheek in amazement. 80

An elephant's temporal gland sits between its eye and ear, and secretes liquid when the animal is stressed, which can create the mistaken impression that it is crying. The elephants at our entrance weren't crying, but the dark moist lines running down their massive cheeks showed that something had deeply affected them. After about forty minutes, they lined up at the fences separating our home from the bush, and their gentle communication started. 85

Solemn rumbles rolled through the air, the same low frequency language they always used with Lawrence. Mabula, the herd's dominant bull, paced up and down with the others; just Nana stood by silently, as if waiting for Lawrence to appear but knowing he wasn't going to.

We hadn't seen them in months. Why now? Why this exact weekend? And why were they so anxious? No science book can explain why our herd came to our house *that* weekend. But to me, it makes perfect sense. When my husband's heart stopped, something stirred in theirs, 90

and they crossed the miles and miles of wilderness to mourn with us, to pay their respects, just as they do when one of their own has died.

94

Question 4

0	4
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How does the writer use language to describe the elephants' behaviour?

[10 marks]

Now think about the **whole** passage and answer **Question 5**.

Question 5

0	5
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What do you learn from the **whole** passage about the writer and her husband, Lawrence?

[9 marks]

Turn over for the next section

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 time when you have overcome a challenge.

[40 marks]

or

Question 7

0	7
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‘Animals are our greatest allies.’ Discuss.

[40 marks]

or

Question 8

0	8
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Write a story which begins with the words: ‘A storm was coming...’.

[40 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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