



**GCSE  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

**Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and  
perspectives**

**8700/2**

**Insert**

**The two sources that follow are:**

**SOURCE A: 20th Century literary non-fiction**

**'The Other Side of the Dale'**

**An extract from a book by Gervase Phinn,  
published in 1998.**

**SOURCE B: 19th Century non-fiction**

**'The Ragged School'**

**An extract from a diary written by a  
teacher, published in 1849.**

**Please turn the page over to see the sources**

## **SOURCE A**

**This extract is from a non-fiction book called ‘The Other Side of the Dale’ written in 1998 by Gervase Phinn about his experiences as a School Inspector in the north of England. In the extract he describes a visit to a primary school in Crompton.**

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**[Turn over]**

**SOURCE B**

**SOURCE B** is taken from a diary written in 1849 by a teacher at a ragged school. Ragged schools were set up to teach children whose parents were too poor to pay for their education. The schools were often housed in unsuitable buildings in poor areas of the city.

**EXTRACTS FROM THE PRIVATE DIARY OF THE MASTER OF A LONDON RAGGED SCHOOL**

The image shows a large room with windows. Some of the windows are partially covered up. A formally dressed man stands behind a desk on a raised platform, he is talking to a group of young boys. Behind the man on the wall a sign says 'Brook Street Ragged and Industrial School'. Another sign says 'For the million, Lectures'. In the room there are several rows of empty benches. About 40 young girls and boys are scattered about the room. Many of them do not wear shoes and their clothes are basic. Some of them are standing and talking in groups. Some of the younger children are drawing on benches at the side. One older child is teaching the alphabet to a small group. A woman is teaching another small group to read.



1 Oct. 29th 1849 –

On the way to the school this morning, it was a  
 dismal scene . . . nothing but squalid dirt and  
 idleness – the lanes leading to the school were full  
 5 of men, women and children: shouting, gossiping,  
 swearing, and laughing in a most discordant  
 manner. The whole population seemed to be on the  
 eve of a great outbreak of some kind or another,  
 ready for anything but work . . . These lanes are a  
 10 moral hell . . . We prepared the school by placing  
 benches for the division of the scholars into four  
 classes, and as they came tumbling and bawling  
 up the stairs, we directed them to seats. Shortly  
 after ten o'clock I spoke to them kindly, and then  
 15 asked them to join with me in prayer.

[Turn over]

No school can be possibly worse than this. Here the very appearance of one's coat is to them the badge of class and respectability, for they know very well that we are the representatives of beings  
20 with whom they have ever considered themselves at war.

I had occasion to punish a boy slightly this morning. He swore most horribly, and rushed from the school. I took little notice of this display, and  
25 sat down calmly to hear the class read. I was suddenly startled by a large stone passing my ear. If it had struck me on the head, I must have been severely hurt. I got out of the reach of stones thrown through the window, and continued the  
30 lesson. Several followed – half-a-dozen at least. He was ready in the courtyard with a brick in his hand, to have his revenge when I came out.

Several visitors called in the afternoon, and they had scarcely left when a most distressing scene  
35 occurred. Two girls of twelve or thirteen years of age quarrelled. The first notice I had of this was to see the pair boxing most viciously. Before I could get at them, they had hold of each other's hair, and were yelling most fearfully. They fought like furies,  
40 but before we could separate them, one had received a severe and lasting injury in the eye, and her nose bled profusely. I sent her home, and went again to work, but it had not been quiet for ten minutes when a fearful outbreak took place. Seven  
45 women rushed into the school and outside, at least fifty women had collected. These were the mothers and friends of the girls who had fought. Having abused me in no measured terms – they proceeded to fight.

**50 Our boys cheered most tremendously. The women swore and shrieked. Those outside responded. Never, surely, was such a noise heard before. I did not believe that human beings resident in this city could so behave . . .**

**55 So by the help of God we must work harder. It is a post of honour. It is a forlorn hope.**

**Oct. 30th 1849 –**

**If possible the scholars were more unruly to-day than they were yesterday, but no serious outbreak**  
**60 took place. All our copybooks have been stolen, and proofs exist that the school is used at night as a sleeping-room. We must get a stronger door to it. I must also get a tub to stand by the pump in the courtyard, and a piece of coarse towelling and**  
**65 soap. My duties must resolve themselves into –**

**First – To see the boys and girls well washed and scrubbed**

**Secondly – To try to get prayers said decently**

**Thirdly – To give them a lesson in their duties and**  
**70 privileges**

**Fourthly – Some religious instruction**

**Fifthly – Reading**

**Sixthly – Writing**

**Seventhly – Arithmetic.**

**END OF SOURCES**

**There are no sources printed on this page**

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