



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education
January 2015

English Language/English

Unit 2: Functional Writing and
Reading Non-fiction

Higher Tier

[GEG22]

MONDAY 12 JANUARY, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Complete **both** tasks.

Spend **45 minutes** on Section A and **45 minutes** on Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 48.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each task.

Section A: Functional Writing

Up to **16 marks** are available for an **organised, appropriate** and **interesting** response.

Up to **8 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentences** and **correct spelling, punctuation and grammar**.

TASK 1

Write a **speech for your class** in which you put forward **your own thoughts and views** on the following topic:

“Who are appropriate role models today? Do we need real people we can admire rather than an endless succession of celebrities?”

Make use of any of the information on page 3, if you find it helpful.

[24]

You may use the space below to plan your response:

“Who are appropriate role models today? Do we need real people we can admire rather than an endless succession of celebrities?”



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Young people know the difference between role models and celebrities. It's possible to be interested in celebrity entertainers without thinking they are role models!

There are ordinary people – real role models – around us every day! We just need to recognise them.

- Last year, firefighters in Northern Ireland attended 30,784 incidents. They deal with not only fires and road traffic collisions but also gas leaks, animal rescue, chemical spills and flooding.
- The ‘Spirit of Northern Ireland Awards’ recognise local people who selflessly help others. These are the real role models.
- ‘Children in Need’, ‘Comic Relief’ and ‘Sport Relief’ show that celebrities can also be role models. They use their fame to help others:
 - Matt Damon founded Water.org to provide safe drinking water worldwide
 - In 2014, the band, Coldplay, donated £260,000 to ‘Sport Relief’.
- Many celebrities work hard to achieve success. Their work ethic is a powerful example to young people.

Section B: Reading Non-Fiction

Read the newspaper article “Yes to shorter school holidays!” on page 5

This article puts forward the writer’s feelings about school summer holidays.

TASK 2

Analyse how the writer engages and sustains the reader’s interest through her use of:

- a lively, personal style of writing
- particular words and phrases selected for effect
- a variety of sentence structures and paragraphing.

[24]

Yes to shorter school holidays!

Listen hard, and this is what I can hear: the dishwasher humming quietly in the kitchen; the dog snorfling happily on the sofa; my elderly neighbour cleaning out his potting shed; the distant whirr of a drill, the buzz of a fly. In other words, peace. Quiet. Calm. Order. It's my favourite time of year – everyone's back at school.

After almost two months of utter chaos, the house is once again mine. I can walk barefoot without risking injury from a piece of abandoned Lego or feeling the squelch of a half-eaten banana between my toes. No one is bleeding, crying or throwing up. The dog is not covered in glitter.

I love my children, obviously. Love my husband, too. But honestly, having them hanging round the house all summer is a complete nightmare.

First there was the mess, the noise, the constant demands for food, the bellowing of the radio, the battles over the TV remote control. The sheer amount of stuff: books, papers, toys, displaced cushions, muddy sports equipment – and the washing. Oh ... the washing! If a domestic appliance can survive August in our house, it can survive anything.

Next – the hijacked online shopping order. Normally this is for my sole and exclusive use. During the holidays, however, my son and husband suddenly decided our house was woefully lacking in Doritos, Coca-Cola and Dairy Lea Dunkers. And so one afternoon, while I was out, they seized their chance. The following day, I opened the front door to a tide of contraband. Consumable snacks ...

giant multi-packs of crisps; fizzy drinks; luxury coleslaw; an insane amount of sugary cereal.

It was as if my account had been hacked by a teenager high on Haribos.

The fridge was soon filled to bursting with repulsive over-packaged processed junk. Meanwhile, the sensible stuff cowered in the cupboard behind a family pack of value custard creams.

Even worse was the situation with the TV. The children lobbied strongly to be allowed to watch Nickelodeon in the afternoons. What's the harm, I thought, after all it's the holidays and they deserve a bit of downtime.

To begin with, it was fine. But then I began to notice them changing ...

When asked how she was getting on, my daughter would suddenly reply: 'Good.' Not: 'I'm fine, thank you ...' Then came 'uh-huh' instead of 'yes'. My son, meanwhile, became obsessed with brushing his hair into his eyes to the point where he could barely see.

It was when I discovered the eldest wagging her head from side to side and sketching a finger-clicking zig-zag in front of her face in the style of the 'sassy' blonde sidekick on *iCarly*, a U.S. teen sitcom, that I realised things had gone too far. After that it was back to CBBC.

Shorter school holidays? The dog and I both agree that is a great idea!

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