

O Level

English Language

Session: 1967 June
Type: Question paper
Code: 110

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ORDINARY LEVEL

PAPER 1

(One hour and a half)

There are **TWO** alternative papers, PAPER 1 A and PAPER 1 B.

Choose the paper for which you have been prepared. **You must not attempt both papers.**

Write *Paper 1 A* **or** *Paper 1 B* at the head of your answer.

PAPER 1 A

One subject only to be chosen.

At the head of your composition write the number of the subject you have chosen.

Write a composition on **one** of the following subjects:

- 1 An eccentric character.
- 2 Family quarrels.
- 3 The difficulties and pleasures of learning to play a musical instrument.
- 4 Preparations for a holiday.
- 5 Write a short story beginning with, or inspired by: **either** (a) I had always believed that such things could only happen to other people . . . **or** (b) I am normally slow to take offence, but . . .
- 6 'A person's dress is an indication of his or her character.' Do you agree?
- 7 Many say that today we show too much sympathy for the criminal and not enough for the victim. Give your opinions.

- 8 Staying with relations or friends.
9 The craze for speed.

PAPER 1 B

You must answer both Section (i) and Section (ii).

Section (i)

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this Section.

Write concisely on one of the following subjects.

Write at the head of your answer to this Section the number of the subject you have chosen.

- 1 Is the risk involved in **one** of the following justified?
(a) Mountain Climbing.
(b) Potholing.
(c) Motor Racing.
- 2 A national newspaper intends to publish a weekly supplement for young people. Give your views on the kinds of subjects it should deal with.
- 3 School uniforms.
- 4 A club or society to which you belong needs funds; you are a member of the committee. How would you raise money?
- 5 Many areas suffer from traffic congestion. Discuss some of the problems and suggest solutions.
- 6 The uses of the helicopter.

Section (ii)

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this Section.

One evening at your Youth Club you take part in an informal discussion, the subject being 'Is it right that a pop singer should earn more than the Prime Minister?'

After the discussion the Youth Club Leader hands you the following notes he has made:

Lively discussion. Some noisy interruptions.

Main points in favour of pop singers' high earnings: give much pleasure; work exhausting; career short; great competition; expenses.

Main points in favour of Prime Minister: work just as hard; position insecure; responsibilities, home and abroad; has to keep up appearances.

Discussion lasted 50 mins.—ended in some disorder.

General conclusion: P.M. should earn more.

Expand these notes into a fuller and more interesting account of the discussion, suitable for your club magazine.

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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PAPER 2

(One hour and a half)

Answer Question 1, and either Question 2 or Question 3.

Read the following passage carefully, and then answer Question 1 and either Question 2 or Question 3.

For some miles we twisted along country lanes, passing through hop-gardens, cherry orchards and beech woods, until we came to a steep hill dropping down to level pasture-land criss-crossed by dykes and long straight roads which stretched away to the horizon. Trees, houses and church towers stood 5 out, visible for miles, in the flat landscape of the Marsh; from

a distance they looked like models dotted haphazard on a green table-cloth. Sheep grazed in the fields beneath an arching sky in which wisps of white cloud were building up from the south-west, and the wind whistled steadily in the rusty wires along the edge of the road. On we drove, across the Marsh and through the narrow, cobbled streets of Rye, out into the bleak, stony waste-land between the town and the sea. The wispy white clouds had now coalesced into a solid grey sheet covering the sky, but still at a great height; the sun had disappeared but a harsh glare made us screw up our eyes when we looked at the road or gazed ahead at the harbourmaster's house and the fishermen's huts which we were rapidly approaching.

'There's *Windrush*!' said John, pointing to the little boat with the tall mast rocking gently at anchor in the sheltered water of the harbour. We came to a stop on the edge of the slipway and got out of the car. John and I took off our shoes and socks and walked down into the water, wading out to *Windrush* and clambering aboard. We collected the sails from the sail-locker and prepared to hoist them; the harbourmaster watched us from the bank. 'What's it like out in the bay?' I called across to him. 'You'd better go and see,' he shouted back. I was not sure how to take this. The wind had continued to freshen and in these circumstances perhaps he had thought I was joking, and that a silly question deserved a silly answer. Perhaps he had been serious. He walked away and I felt too diffident to go after him. 'Cast off forward!' I ordered and, as the bows swung a few points off the wind, the sails stopped flapping and stiffened with the weight of the breeze pressing against them, and the water began to hiss and bubble as *Windrush* headed down the river towards the sea.

At the river mouth the waves seemed to be coming at us from every point of the compass, but we bucked our way through into less confused water where we changed course for the bay. *Windrush* was now running before a fresh Sou'wester

and I planned to beach her on Camber sands and decide later whether to sail her back that same afternoon or wait for an improvement in the weather. But a stronger gust than usual caught us unprepared; with so much sail on her, *Windrush* smashed into the next wave instead of riding over it, burying her bows in a great ridge of water which swept back along her length filling her from stem to stern. Suddenly slowed, she refused to answer the helm, swung round sluggishly until she was broadside-on to sea and wind, and heeled over. John and I tried to right her, but without success; so we decided to swim ashore.

I was not worried about *Windrush*, her buoyancy tanks would keep her afloat until I could get help, but I soon lost sight of John and the shore did not seem to be coming any closer. Fifteen, twenty minutes went by, and I began to wonder if the tide would change and sweep me out into mid-Channel before I reached safety. Surely someone had seen us capsize? Surely a rescue launch would be on its way? For the first time I became really frightened. Heartless brutes, leaving us to drown... Then, as my bitterness grew, I looked to my left and there, half a mile from the shore, was a man—standing up with the water not above his knees! I, too, stood up, and when I had recovered my breath I waded back to *Windrush* feeling a complete idiot. 'A gently sloping beach,' they had said. Gently, indeed!

Question 1

(a) In paragraph 1, the writer mentions several different types of scenery. Describe these, in your own words as far as possible. It is suggested that you will require between 60 and 70 words.

(b) Imagine that you are John.

Taking your material from paragraph 3, and using only about 40 words, write an account of the capsizing of *Wind-*

rush. Do not use the language of the original passage, except where it is impossible to avoid doing so.

(c) Why was the author unconcerned about his boat when it capsized?

(d) Give the meaning of each of the following words as used in the passage. **Either** one-word answers **or** short phrases will be accepted: (i) haphazard (l. 7); (ii) coalesced (l. 14); (iii) glare (l. 16); (iv) freshen (l. 30); (v) confused (l. 41); (vi) gust (l. 45); (vii) sluggishly (l. 50); (viii) heartless (l. 61).

(e) Each of the following words and expressions is taken from the passage. Compose a sentence (i.e. **three** sentences in all) in which the word or phrase is used to describe a different thing or situation.

- (i) Bay (l. 28).
- (ii) Hiss and bubble (l. 37).
- (iii) Bucked (l. 40).

Answer either Question 2 or Question 3.

Question 2

(a) Why do you think the author 'felt too diffident to go after' the harbourmaster?

(b) Express the meaning of the following as far as possible in your own words:

(i) wisps of white cloud are building up from the south-west (ll. 9-10).

(ii) made us screw up our eyes (ll. 16-17).

(iii) the sails... stiffened with the weight of the breeze pressing against them (ll. 35-6).

Question 3

(a) Why did the author feel 'a complete idiot'?

(b) Select **three** words from the following list and use them in a **brief** description of **either** the appearance **or** the personality of an imaginary man or woman:

Arching (l. 9); wispy (l. 14); harsh (l. 16); tall (l. 21); serious (l. 33); diffident (l. 33); flapping (l. 35).