



GCSE English Language Model Answers:

English Language (8700) (NEW SPEC) June 2018

Paper 2

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Q1.

- The first time Mike Doyle saw anyone surfing was in 1953.
- In the 1950s there were very few surfers in California.
- Most surfers like to surf in the early morning.
- The surfers looked fit and suntanned.

**Examiner's report:**

- This question assesses the first part of **AO1** - 'identify and interpret explicit information and ideas'.
  - The answer selects the four statements that are true, based on the specified lines in the question: **lines 1-13**.
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Q2. Although the surfboards in Sources A and B could be considered outwardly similar in their appearance, the boards are crafted from different materials and vary in size. In Source A, the Californian boards use 'balsa wood', in order to make the boards lighter and more well-suited to surfing. These newer boards demonstrate a shift away from the 'unbelievably awkward' mahogany boards which were approximately fourteen feet long, had no fin and were largely used to perform rescues. The decision to use balsa wood to create the boards could be considered innovative, as it demonstrates a desire to develop the boards and improve their ability to perform in the sport.

Contrastingly, the surfboards in Source B appear to be more traditional and less innovative. In terms of size, the boards are shorter and broader than their Californian counterparts, varying in length from 'six to nine feet long'. The Hawaiian boards are primitive, 'a tough plank of wood', made from the wood of the native 'breadfruit tree'. The Hawaiians' use of native materials to construct the 'hand carved' boards may be rooted in the cultural significance of 'surf-bathing'. The activity is depicted as being intrinsically linked to local culture. The writer of Source B notes that the boards are 'well-oiled and cared for', and are blessed in a 'simple ritual'. The importance of the ritual, and the respectful treatment of the surfboards suggests that their purpose may extend beyond existing principally as a fashion accessory, into its own cultural

practice. The boards are also given a culturally unique Hawaiian name, 'Papa-he-nalu', emphasising the notion that they play an important role within the local culture of Hilo.

#### Examiner's report:

- This answer assesses **both parts of AO1** - identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas, and select and synthesise evidence from different texts.
  - The answer makes perceptive inferences from both texts, making sure to analyse **how the surfboards differ**.
  - The student makes **shrewd** references to the text, sometimes using **direct quotations**, which are relevant to the question.
  - The student has shown perceptive **similarities** between texts, signposting to the examiner using phrases such as 'similarly' and 'in Source A'.
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Q3. In Source B, the writer uses a variety of language techniques to describe the surfers and the sea. Firstly, the writer states that the surfers rode in 'majestically'. The adverb is suggestive of royal behaviour and a sense of superiority, emphasising how the surfers carry themselves in a poised and elegant manner above the waves. The depiction of the surfers as regal figures is also furthered through the assertion that they were 'uttering exultant cries'. This is a powerful oxymoronic expression, as they are rejoicing with their cries, and indicates the implausibility of their mastery over the waves. Assonance within the phrase is utilised to draw attention to the triumph of the men over the sea, as they ride confidently above the crests, akin to Neptune, the mythical god of the sea. The surfers' ability to go up against the waves is a notable achievement. They encounter the 'towering white crest', the metaphor expressing the challenge a wave poses as it climbs above them. The men responded to the challenge confidently: 'daring riders knelt and even stood on their surf-boards'. Use of the adverb 'even' here, serves to emphasise that not only are the men able to skillfully ride ahead of the breaker at a great speed, but that some are even able to stand up and wave in celebration.

The writer also incorporates figurative language into the text. The wave is personified as a 'fierce breaker', highlighting the might and power of the sea, evoking the image of a ferociously aggressive creature preparing to fight. This apparent viciousness creates an interesting contrast to the men who are 'bobbing about like corks in the smooth water'. Bird's choice of metaphor is suggestive of a carefree attitude, as corks would move around randomly, but may also indicate the resilience of the surfers. A cork cannot be pushed down by the water for a long period of time, it rises to the surface, representing the resilience of the men. Though some falter and slide from their boards, the assertion that they are constantly 'preparing for fresh exploits' suggests their bravery, as they remain unfazed by the power of the sea. Furthermore, the repetition of the onomatopoeic phrase 'dashed to pieces' juxtaposes the writer's anxieties about the potential

outcome of the situation with the relaxed 'bobbing' of the surfers, emphasising the mens' self-assurance, and their ability to ride the waves.

#### Examiner's report:

- In this question you will be marked on **AO2** - explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.
  - **A range of language techniques** are identified, such as oxymorons and personification.
  - Supporting **evidence** from the text is selected and presented in the form of direct quotes from the **specified lines** of text.
  - The **effects** of each language technique are **perceptively analysed** using a range of sophisticated subject **vocabulary**.
  - Different parts of the answer are clearly **signposted to the examiner** using connectives such as 'furthermore' and 'firstly'.
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Q4. In Sources A and B the writers convey a comparable admiration for surfing, each from a first person perspective. In Source A, Doyle seems to feel a connection with the surfers as he deeply wishes to be involved in the sport. He states that he felt 'it was almost as if I was on the board myself', demonstrating that he is so enamoured by the surfers that he is able to imagine himself in their position. Moreover, the use of metaphorical language to describe the surfers as 'bronzed gods' emphasises Doyle's complete idolisation of them, and their ability to command the sea. This sense that they have above-human capability is cemented in Doyle's assertion that they were 'happier and healthier than anybody I'd ever seen'.

His subsequent desperation to become a surfer is made apparent through his feeling in his bones that 'surfing was for me'. The gravitational pull of surfing for Doyle is furthered through the use of active verbs; he is 'plotting' for a chance to try it, evidencing that his passion for surfing was a notable part of his childhood. In this sense, the culture of surfing seems to be a key aspect for the writer of Source A, as the surfers are depicted as godlike beings that Doyle wishes to join. Doyle's perseverance is obvious in how he 'pestered' the surfers to borrow their boards, undeterred by the inference that he should 'Get lost'. Use of the verb 'pestered' serves to emphasise the high frequency of his requests. It also makes it clear that he does not seem to care whether he annoys the surfers, and that instead his goal is simply to get access to a surfboard in any way possible.

In Source B, Bird is similarly respectful of surfing as a sport, although unlike Doyle, she appears content in her role as an observer, and expresses no interest in joining in. Her admiration is apparent in how she describes the movement of the surfers, as they 'rode in majestically...uttering exultant cries'. The language indicates that Bird sees the surfers as

distinguished and heroic. Though her attitude is comparable to the attitude in Source A, her account in Source B does not go as far as to imply that the surfers are godly. Bird's attitude is instead somewhat detached, as she watches the 'great art' of surfing, it appears to be a grand spectacle, watched from afar rather than something she feels compelled to do. In this way, the writers' attitudes differ, as Source A demonstrates the author's burning passion for surfing.

Source B elects to focus on the beauty of the surfing in the context of the surroundings, rather than the act itself. For Doyle, surfing appears to be an integral part of his life. He can clearly recount his first time witnessing surfing, 'at the Manhattan Pier in 1953', demonstrating that the experience has stayed with him since. In contrast, surfing is a temporary display for Bird, who remarks that she 'thoroughly enjoyed' the afternoon. The show only occupied a small part of her travels to Hawaii and may have only been of interest as it is a 'national sport', indicating that her interest comes mainly from her desire to experience the local culture.

Therefore, though both Source A and B depict surfing in an overtly positive manner, the author of Source A sees surfing as a way of life, whilst in B it is only a sport for the writer, despite its cultural significance to the local people in Hawaii.

#### Examiner's report:

- This answer assesses **AO3** - compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.
- The student has analysed the **writers' methods** used to illustrate their different perspectives on surfing.
- The answer selects a range of supporting **evidence** from both texts, in the form of quotes.
- The answer shows a detailed and **perceptive understanding** of the different ideas and perspectives in both texts, and uses **sophisticated language** to explain this.
- The answer is clearly **signposted** to the reader through phrases such as 'in Source B' and 'Therefore.'

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Q5.

## VICTORY AT THE EXPENSE OF SOCIETY

Top prize for corruption and greed goes to sport - by a clear mile!

By Ivana Runner

Do you remember your first sports day? The joy of the three legged race, running around and having fun with your friends? The little plastic gold medals given to everyone? For many of us in

the UK, these elements formed our first experience with sports, and that great delight is something which stays with us forever.

Now we are in danger of these fond memories becoming a thing of the past. Gym membership costs have rocketed by a whopping 78% in recent years, P.E. departments face gross underfunding, and supposed 'champion' athletes are found to be engaging in doping every other week. It is clear that sport has become tarnished by the evil endeavours of those simply out to line their own pockets. As a society, we must stop this now.

Firstly, football is foregrounded by an acute wage disparity between men and women. Last year, the Lionesses took home £47,000 a year, whilst the average wage of a male Premier League player is £60,000 – a week. The gender pay gap is appalling, symptomatic of the wider unequal treatment of women and men in sport. Boxing was once focused around the action in the ring, now it is more about ring lights.

The so-called 'noble art' is now a realm in which social media stars 'fight out' staged disagreements for mammoth sums of money. Even cycling cannot be saved from scandal. Lance Armstrong recently admitted that he used illegal performance-enhancing drugs during all seven of his Tour de France wins. When did sport become all about money rather than the exhilarating pleasure of physical activity?

We need to get back to basics with sport. This rampant and enormous greed is polluting the passion of the population.

#### Examiner's report:

- In this answer, you will be marked on **AO5**: content and organisation, and **AO6**: technical accuracy.
  - **AO5**: The student has employed **convincing and compelling communication** through a range of language techniques such as statistical evidence and rhetorical questions.
  - **AO5**: The answer's **tone, style and register** are accurately matched to the purpose and audience of a newspaper article, and a headline and subheading are included to reflect this.
  - The answer uses **sophisticated vocabulary** such as 'endeavours', and 'symptomatic', and 'rampant'.
  - **AO6**: the student has employed **varied structural techniques** such as listing and varied sentence structure.
  - **AO6**: Paragraphs are **fluently linked**, with integrated discourse markers.
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