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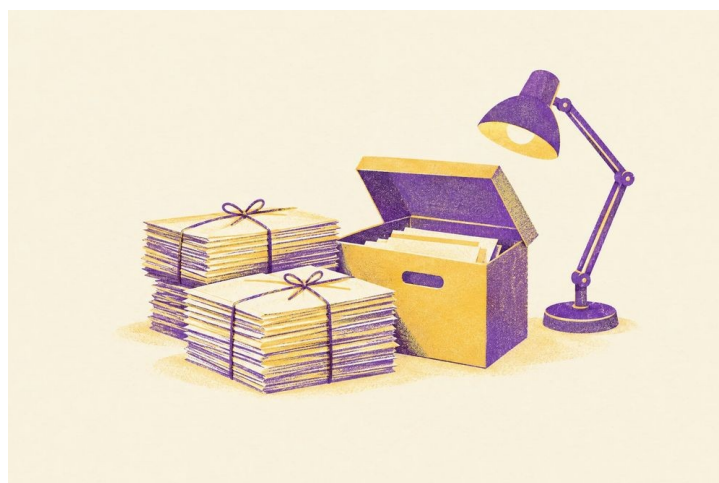
AQA Language past papers

GCSE English Language (8700), 2017 to 2025

Paper 1, then Paper 2, by exam series

The sources in brief and every writing task

Written for the AQA specification



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About this list

We do not make predictions. Any kind of source and any writing form can come up, so use this list to practise, not to guess. A topic that has appeared before can appear again.

This is an overview of the sources and writing tasks AQA has set for GCSE English Language (8700) in every exam series from June 2017 to June 2025, including the November series. No summer exams were sat in 2020 or 2021: the papers written for those summers were sat in the November 2020 and November 2021 series instead, and are listed under those series. Section A summaries are our own short descriptions of each source; the sources themselves are not reproduced. Question 5 wording is copied from the printed paper; the pictures that go with the Paper 1 tasks are not reproduced. From June 2026 some Section A question formats changed (see AQA's summary of changes); the sources and Question 5 shown here are as they were set at the time.

Each item was taken from AQA's own insert and question paper (copies hosted by Physics & Maths Tutor unless stated) and checked against a second document: AQA's mark scheme for the same series in every case, plus AQA's examiner report where we could download it, and for Paper 2 up to June 2023 a past-question list published by Pensby High School. Where AQA's insert leaves the source out for copyright reasons, the details come from the insert's title page and context box, the mark scheme and the examiner report.

November 2025: AQA has not yet released the papers publicly, so this series is not listed.

Paper	Section A: Reading	Section B: Writing
Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing	One prose fiction source from the 20th or 21st century; four questions (40 marks).	Question 5: descriptive or narrative writing, a choice of two tasks, one usually with a picture (40 marks).
Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	Two linked non-fiction sources, one from the 19th century and one from the 20th or 21st century; four questions (40 marks).	Question 5: writing to present a viewpoint, responding to a statement in a given form (40 marks).

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

Section A: Reading. One prose fiction source from the 20th or 21st century; four questions (40 marks).

Section B: Writing. Question 5: descriptive or narrative writing, a choice of two tasks, one usually with a picture (40 marks).

At a glance

Series	Section A source	Question 5 tasks
June 2017	The Tiredness of Rosabel, Katherine Mansfield (1908)	Describe a journey by bus (picture) or: Write a story about two people from very different backgrounds.
November 2017	Labyrinth, Kate Mosse (2005)	Write a story, set in a mountainous area (picture) or: Write a story with the title 'Discovery'.
June 2018	Jigs and Reels, Joanne Harris (2004)	Write a description of an old person (picture) or: Write a story about a time when things turned out unexpectedly.
November 2018	A Sound of Thunder, Ray Bradbury (1952)	Write a story about time travel (picture) or: Describe life as you imagine it in 200 years' time.
June 2019	The Mill, H E Bates (1935)	Describe a market place (picture) or: Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.
November 2019	The Silent Land, Graham Joyce (2010)	Write a story about a magical world (picture) or: Describe a place you think is beautiful.
November 2020	The Silk Factory, Judith Allnatt (2015)	Write a description of a mysterious place (picture) or: Write a story about an event that cannot be explained.
November 2021	Half of a Yellow Sun, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2006)	Describe a place at sunset (picture) or: Write a story about a new beginning.
June 2022	The Pearl, John Steinbeck (1947)	Write a description of an unusual place to stay (picture) or: Write a story about a life-saving rescue.
November 2022	The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway (1952)	Write a description of a fishing village (picture) or: Write a story about an unlikely friendship.
June 2023	Life of Pi, Yann Martel (2001)	Write a description of a zoo or wildlife park (picture) or: Write a story about a human meeting an animal.
November 2023	Possession, A S Byatt (1990)	Write a description of a library (picture) or: Write a story about discovering a hidden object.
June 2024	The Grass is Singing, Doris Lessing (1950)	Write a description of a very hot place (picture) or: Write a story about a disagreement.
November 2024	The Glass House, Eve Chase (2020)	Write a story about a journey (picture) or: Write a description of a forest.
June 2025	The Midwich Cuckoos, John Wyndham (1957)	Write a description of a town or village (picture) or: Write a story about a day when technology stopped.

Paper 1, June 2017

Section A: Reading

The Tiredness of Rosabel by Katherine Mansfield

Prose fiction: the beginning of a short story. 20th century, published 1908.

Rosabel, a young shop girl in a London milliner's, travels home on a crowded bus on a wet evening. Tired and hungry, she remembers serving a wealthy young woman and her companion that day, and the gap between their lives and hers.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and they intend to publish the winning entries.

Either: Describe a journey by bus as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about two people from very different backgrounds.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2017

Section A: Reading

Labyrinth by Kate Mosse

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 21st century, published 2005.

Alice, a student volunteering on an archaeological dig in the French Pyrenees, keeps working on a hot mountainside while the rest of the team takes a break. She has noticed something glinting under a boulder and is determined to dig it out.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

An online competition for story writing is being held, and you have decided to enter.

Either: Write a story, set in a mountainous area, as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story with the title 'Discovery'.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2018

Section A: Reading

Jigs and Reels by Joanne Harris

Prose fiction: the beginning of a short story from the collection. 21st century, published 2004.

Mr Fisher, an English teacher near the end of a long career at a boys' grammar school, regrets that his pupils no longer love stories. Marking homework one weekend, he reads a story by a pupil called Tibbet and is surprised by how original it is.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either: Write a description of an old person as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a time when things turned out unexpectedly.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2018

Section A: Reading

A Sound of Thunder by Ray Bradbury

Prose fiction: the middle of a short story. 20th century, published 1952.

A hunting party has travelled back in time to a prehistoric jungle to shoot a Tyrannosaurus Rex. When the dinosaur appears, one hunter, Eckels, is overcome with terror, and the party open fire as the creature charges.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and the best entries will be published.

Either: Write a story about time travel as suggested by this picture:

or: Describe life as you imagine it in 200 years' time.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2019

Section A: Reading

The Mill by H E Bates

Prose fiction: the beginning of a short story. 20th century, published 1935.

The Hartops sell produce from a motor-van in the countryside of the 1930s. Driving home at night, the father sends his daughter Alice back along the dark road alone to find something that has fallen from the roof, and she returns with a bunch of chrysanthemums.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either: Describe a market place as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2019

Section A: Reading

The Silent Land by Graham Joyce

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 21st century, published 2010.

Zoe and her husband Jake are skiing high in the French Pyrenees. Zoe is enjoying the snow and silence when she notices signs of danger, and the couple are caught and buried by an avalanche.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either: Write a story about a magical world as suggested by this picture:

or: Describe a place you think is beautiful.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2020

Sat in November 2020. AQA printed it as the June 2020 paper; the summer 2020 exams were cancelled.

Section A: Reading

The Silk Factory by Judith Allnatt

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 21st century, published 2015.

On her first day in an old house that was once part of a silk factory, Rosie watches her two young children playing in the overgrown garden. She notices a strange girl among them who looks distressed, but when Rosie goes outside the child has vanished.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your local library is running a creative writing competition. The best entries will be published in a booklet of creative writing.

Either: Write a description of a mysterious place, as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about an event that cannot be explained.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2021

Sat in November 2021. AQA printed it as the June 2021 paper; the summer 2021 exams were cancelled.

Section A: Reading

Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 21st century, published 2006.

In Nigeria in 1960, thirteen-year-old Ugwu walks with his aunt into a university town where he is to work as a servant for a professor. He is amazed by the smooth roads and neat houses, and waits uncertainly in front of his new master.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either: Describe a place at sunset as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a new beginning.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2022

Section A: Reading

The Pearl by John Steinbeck

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 20th century, published 1947.

Kino and Juana wake at dawn in their brush house in a poor fishing village. A scorpion creeps down the rope of their baby's hanging box, and the parents react in different ways as it threatens, then stings, the child.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A travel website is running a creative writing competition and will publish the winning entries.

Either: Write a description of an unusual place to stay, as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a life-saving rescue.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2022

Section A: Reading

The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 20th century, published 1952.

An old Cuban fisherman has gone many weeks without catching a fish, and the other fishermen pity or mock him. The boy who once fished with him still looks after him, and the two talk about fishing, luck and trust.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and the best entries will be published.

Either: Write a description of a fishing village, as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about an unlikely friendship.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2023

Section A: Reading

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Prose fiction: the middle of a novel. 21st century, published 2001.

Pi, a teenage boy, is adrift in a lifeboat in the Pacific with a zebra, an orang-utan and a hyena. He describes his fear of the hyena and watches it behave more and more strangely as the day goes on.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A wildlife magazine is running a creative writing competition and the winning entry will be published in its next edition.

Either: Write a description of a zoo or wildlife park as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a human meeting an animal.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2023

Section A: Reading

Possession by A S Byatt

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 20th century, published 1990.

Roland, a young research assistant, is studying a Victorian poet's own copy of a book in a London library. Inside it he finds drafts of letters the poet wrote to an unknown woman, and he quietly takes them.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either: Write a description of a library as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about discovering a hidden object.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2024

Section A: Reading

The Grass is Singing by Doris Lessing

Prose fiction: the middle of a novel. 20th century, published 1950.

Mary has moved from town to a remote farm in Southern Africa after marrying Dick, a struggling farmer. The heat of the hot season wears her down, and her irritation and loneliness show in a tense exchange with her husband.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either: Write a description of a very hot place as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a disagreement.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, November 2024

Section A: Reading

The Glass House by Eve Chase

Prose fiction: the beginning of a novel. 21st century, published 2020.

Rita, a young nanny, drives her employer Jeannie and the children from London to Foxcote Manor, a crumbling house deep in the Forest of Dean. The house is wilder and more neglected than she expected, and Jeannie seems unhappy to be there.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

A magazine is asking for entries for a creative writing competition.

Either: Write a story about a journey as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a description of a forest.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

Paper 1, June 2025

Section A: Reading

The Midwich Cuckoos by John Wyndham

Prose fiction: near the beginning of a novel. 20th century, published 1957.

Contact with the English village of Midwich is suddenly lost one night: phones go dead and vehicles sent to investigate do not return. In the morning the village and everyone in it lie strangely still, and a man who walks towards it collapses.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

Either: Write a description of a town or village, as suggested by this picture:

or: Write a story about a day when technology stopped.

The paper prints a picture with this option; it is not reproduced here.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Section A: Reading. Two linked non-fiction sources, one from the 19th century and one from the 20th or 21st century; four questions (40 marks).

Section B: Writing. Question 5: writing to present a viewpoint, responding to a statement in a given form (40 marks).

At a glance

Series	Section A sources	Question 5 form
June 2017	A: How can my son be a year old already?, Stuart Heritage (2016) B: Boy Lost (1800s)	an article for a broadsheet newspaper
November 2017	A: The Other Side of the Dale, Gervase Phinn (1998) B: Extracts from the private diary of the master of a London ragged school (1849)	a speech for your school or college Leavers' Day
June 2018	A: Morning Glass, Mike Doyle (1993) B: The Hawaiian Archipelago, Isabella Bird (1875)	an article for a newspaper
November 2018	A: All cyclists fear bad drivers, Peter Walker (2016) B: On a Bicycle in the Streets of London, The Countess of Malmesbury (1896)	a letter to the Minister for Transport
June 2019	A: The Crossing, James Cracknell and Ben Fogle (2006) B: Idle Days in Patagonia, W H Hudson (1893)	a letter to the editor of a newspaper
November 2019	A: Shooting an Elephant, George Orwell (1936) B: Wild Animals in Captivity, Abraham Bartlett (1898)	an article for a magazine
November 2020	A: Touching the Void, Joe Simpson (1988) B: Climbing the Meije, Gertrude Bell (1899)	an article for a news website
November 2021	A: Unreliable Memoirs, Clive James (1980) B: Sweets and their Manufacture (1868)	an article for a magazine or website
June 2022	A: The Tent, the Bucket and Me, Emma Kennedy (2009) B: In the Wilderness, Charles Dudley Warner (1878)	an article for a magazine
November 2022	A: How I beat my insomnia, Arifa Akbar (2016) B: A sleepless night, Fanny Fern (1872)	a letter to the Minister for Education
June 2023	A: One's Company, Peter Fleming (1933) B: Records of a Girlhood, Fanny Kemble (1878)	a speech to be given at a meeting of your local council

Series	Section A sources	Question 5 form
November 2023	A: Diary of a Young Naturalist, Dara McAnulty (2020) B: The Debt We Owe to Birds and Beasts, Gordon Stables (1889)	a speech to be given at a meeting with the leaders of your country
June 2024	A: This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor, Adam Kay (2017) B: The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands, Mary Seacole (1857)	an article for your school or college magazine
November 2024	A: The Tomb of Tutankhamun, Volume 1, Howard Carter (1923) B: The Englishwoman in Egypt, Sophia Lane Poole (1844)	an article for your school or college website
June 2025	A: The Accidental Countryside, Stephen Moss (2020) B: The Life of the Fields, Richard Jefferies (1884)	an article for your school or college website

Paper 2, June 2017

Section A: Reading

Source A: *How can my son be a year old already?* by Stuart Heritage

Non-fiction: newspaper article (The Guardian). 21st century, published 2016.

A father looks back on his son's first birthday, marvelling at how quickly the baby has changed and how much he will forget of this year.

Source B: *Boy Lost* (writer not named)

Literary non-fiction: newspaper article. 19th century, 1800s.

A mother remembers her son as a small child and mourns the little boy he was, now that he has grown up and that childhood has gone.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different perspectives and feelings about their children growing up.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Parents today are over-protective. They should let their children take part in adventurous, even risky, activities to prepare them for later life.'

Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you argue for or against this statement.

Paper 2, November 2017

Section A: Reading

Source A: *The Other Side of the Dale* by Gervase Phinn

Literary non-fiction: book. 20th century, published 1998.

A school inspector describes a cheerful visit to a primary school in the north of England, where a nun runs a warm and well-ordered classroom.

Source B: *Extracts from the private diary of the master of a London ragged school* (writer not named)

Non-fiction: diary. 19th century, published 1849.

A teacher at a ragged school for very poor children records the noise, disorder and hardship he faces in his classroom.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to the two schools.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Education is not just about which school you go to, or what qualifications you gain; it is also about what you learn from your experiences outside of school.'

Write a speech for your school or college Leavers' Day to explain what you think makes a good education.

Paper 2, June 2018

Section A: Reading

Source A: *Morning Glass* by Mike Doyle

Literary non-fiction: autobiography. 20th century, published 1993.

A professional surfer recalls seeing surfing for the first time on a California beach in the 1950s and the heavy boards used then.

Source B: *The Hawaiian Archipelago* by Isabella Bird

Non-fiction: letter. 19th century, published 1875.

A British traveller writes to her sister about watching local people ride the waves at Hilo in Hawaii, at a time when surfing was unknown in Britain.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different perspectives on surfing.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'All sport should be fun, fair and open to everyone. These days, sport seems to be more about money, corruption and winning at any cost.'

Write an article for a newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2018

Section A: Reading

Source A: *All cyclists fear bad drivers* by Peter Walker

Non-fiction: newspaper article (The Guardian). 21st century, published 2016.

A journalist describes frightening incidents with drivers and argues that people who cycle in the city are put at risk by other road users.

Source B: *On a Bicycle in the Streets of London* by The Countess of Malmesbury

Literary non-fiction: magazine article. 19th century, published 1896.

A woman describes learning to ride a bicycle and her terror when she first cycled through London's traffic, where cab drivers seemed to chase her.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their similar perspectives on cycling in the city.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Cars are noisy, dirty, smelly and downright dangerous. They should be banned from all town and city centres, allowing people to walk and cycle in peace.'

Write a letter to the Minister for Transport arguing your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, June 2019

Section A: Reading

Source A: *The Crossing* by James Cracknell and Ben Fogle

Non-fiction: autobiographical account. 21st century, published 2006.

During a rowing race across the Atlantic, Ben Fogle describes a night shift at the oars when huge waves threaten their small boat.

Source B: *Idle Days in Patagonia* by W H Hudson

Literary non-fiction: travel writing. 19th century, published 1893.

A naturalist describes a stormy voyage to Patagonia on an old steamship that runs aground, and how the passengers cope.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different perspectives and feelings about their experiences at sea.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'It is people who have extraordinary skill, courage and determination who deserve to be famous, not those who have good looks or lots of money or behave badly.'

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper in which you argue your point of view in response to this statement.

Paper 2, November 2019

Section A: Reading

Source A: *Shooting an Elephant* by George Orwell

Literary non-fiction: essay. 20th century, published 1936.

A young British police officer in colonial Burma describes being pressed by a large crowd to shoot an elephant, against his own judgement.

Source B: *Wild Animals in Captivity* by Abraham Bartlett

Non-fiction: book. 19th century, published 1898.

The head keeper at London Zoo describes how he and a keeper tamed the famous elephant Jumbo, and how Jumbo became destructive as he grew older.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to the elephants.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'People protest about the cruelty of keeping animals in captivity, but they seem happy enough to eat meat, keep pets and visit zoos. All animals should be free!'

Write an article for a magazine in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2020

Sat in November 2020. AQA printed it as the June 2020 paper; the summer 2020 exams were cancelled.

Section A: Reading

Source A: *Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson

Literary non-fiction: autobiographical account. 20th century, published 1988.

After breaking his leg high on a mountain in Peru, a climber describes being lowered down the slope on a rope by his partner, Simon.

Source B: *Climbing the Meije* by Gertrude Bell

Non-fiction: letter. 19th century, published 1899.

An explorer writes home about a dangerous climb in the Alps with her guide, Marius, describing the hard rock, the weather and the route.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on their adventures in the mountains.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'People have become obsessed with travelling ever further and faster. However, travel is expensive, dangerous, damaging and a foolish waste of time!'

Write an article for a news website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2021

Sat in November 2021. AQA printed it as the June 2021 paper; the summer 2021 exams were cancelled.

Section A: Reading

Source A: *Unreliable Memoirs* by Clive James

Literary non-fiction: autobiography. 20th century, published 1980.

The writer remembers Saturday afternoons at the cinema as a child in Australia in the 1940s, and the sweets the children ate and threw.

Source B: *Sweets and their Manufacture* (writer not named)

Non-fiction: magazine article. 19th century, published 1868.

A Victorian writer explains how sweets were made and decorated in English factories, including the hard work of the children employed there.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to sweets.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Our addiction to cheap clothes and fast fashion means young people in poorer countries have to work in terrible conditions to make them. We must change our attitude to buying clothes now.'

Write an article for a magazine or website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, June 2022

Section A: Reading

Source A: *The Tent, the Bucket and Me* by Emma Kennedy

Literary non-fiction: autobiography. 21st century, published 2009.

The writer recalls a disastrous family camping holiday in France in the 1970s, when a sudden storm batters the tent.

Source B: *In the Wilderness* by Charles Dudley Warner

Non-fiction: book. 19th century, published 1878.

An American writer praises camping in the wild as an escape from comfortable city life and describes making camp in the woods.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different thoughts and feelings about camping experiences.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Holidays don't need to be faraway and expensive. They just need to give people a break from everyday life and the chance to relax.'

Write an article for a magazine in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2022

Section A: Reading

Source A: *How I beat my insomnia* by Arifa Akbar

Non-fiction: newspaper article. 21st century, published 2016.

A journalist describes years of struggling to sleep, the remedies she tried and the method that finally helped her.

Source B: *A sleepless night* by Fanny Fern

Literary non-fiction: magazine article. 19th century, published 1872.

An American journalist describes, with humour and irritation, lying awake hour after hour while everything, mosquitoes included, keeps her from sleeping.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on their experiences of sleep and sleeplessness.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Scientists say that teenagers are not like adults; they learn and socialise differently and need sleep at different times. Education needs a radical re-think to meet the needs of students.'

Write a letter to the Minister for Education explaining your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, June 2023

Section A: Reading

Source A: *One's Company* by Peter Fleming

Literary non-fiction: travel book. 20th century, published 1933.

Near the end of a week-long trip on the Trans-Siberian Railway, the writer describes his relaxed mood and then a sudden train crash.

Source B: *Records of a Girlhood* by Fanny Kemble

Non-fiction: letter. 19th century, published 1878 (letter written in 1830).

A young woman writes to a friend about her thrilling first ride on an early steam train, with George Stephenson on board.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives about their experiences of travelling on a train.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Cars are convenient, comfortable and save time. However, we need to use them less by making public transport such as trains, trams and buses cheaper, more reliable and easier to access.'

Write a speech to be given at a meeting of your local council in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2023

AQA's insert and question paper are not on Physics & Maths Tutor for this series; details are from the insert and a modified copy of the paper hosted by revision sites, checked against AQA's mark scheme and examiner report.

Section A: Reading

Source A: *Diary of a Young Naturalist* by Dara McAnulty

Non-fiction: diary. 21st century, published 2020.

A teenage naturalist from Northern Ireland writes about a trip to London for a meeting about the environment, and his frustration that people and governments are not acting quickly enough.

Source B: *The Debt We Owe to Birds and Beasts* by Gordon Stables

Literary non-fiction: magazine article. 19th century, published 1889.

A Victorian writer complains that people and governments ignore the harm being done to wildlife and the natural world, and argues that nature does a great deal for us.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their similar feelings and ideas about environmental issues.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Young people have the energy, enthusiasm and ideas to change our world for the better in so many ways. However, they are powerless because adults do not really listen to them, or take them seriously.'

Write a speech to be given at a meeting with the leaders of your country in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, June 2024

Section A: Reading

Source A: *This is Going to Hurt: Secret Diaries of a Junior Doctor* by Adam Kay

Non-fiction: diary. 21st century, published 2017.

A doctor looks back with dark humour on medical school and his first job as a junior hospital doctor, especially the long, lonely night shifts.

Source B: *The Wonderful Adventures of Mrs Seacole in Many Lands* by Mary Seacole

Literary non-fiction: memoir. 19th century, published 1857.

A British-Jamaican nurse describes the crowded, noisy wharf where she helped care for soldiers wounded in war.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on providing medical care.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Choosing a future career should be based on helping others and making a positive contribution to society, not achieving status or making lots of money.'

Write an article for your school or college magazine in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, November 2024

Section A: Reading

Source A: *The Tomb of Tutankhamun, Volume 1* by Howard Carter

Literary non-fiction: memoir. 20th century, published 1923.

The archaeologist describes the discovery of a hidden step in the Valley of the Kings and the excitement of uncovering Tutankhamun's tomb.

Source B: *The Englishwoman in Egypt* by Sophia Lane Poole

Non-fiction: letter. 19th century, published 1844.

A woman writes to a friend about visiting the pyramids with her brother, an archaeologist, and her wonder at their size and age.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their similar attitudes and feelings about their experiences in Egypt.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'The past is irrelevant to our generation and learning about it is a waste of time and effort. The future is in innovation, so that's where all our efforts should be directed.'

Write an article for your school or college website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

Paper 2, June 2025

Section A: Reading

Source A: *The Accidental Countryside* by Stephen Moss

Literary non-fiction: book. 21st century, published 2020.

A wildlife writer watches a peregrine falcon hunt pigeons from a building in a city and explains how the birds have made a comeback in urban areas.

Source B: *The Life of the Fields* by Richard Jefferies

Non-fiction: book. 19th century, published 1884.

A nature writer remembers a brook from his childhood and thinks about the wildlife around it and on how nature and memory change over time.

Question 4: compare how the writers convey their similar thoughts and feelings about nature.

Section B: Writing (Question 5, 40 marks)

'Being in touch with plants, animals and birds is good for our health and wellbeing. Schools and colleges should provide outdoor spaces where students and staff can connect with the natural world.'

Write an article for your school or college website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.