



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2016

English Language/English

Unit 2: Functional Writing and
Reading Non-Fiction

Foundation Tier

[GEG21]

TUESDAY 12 JANUARY, MORNING



GEG21

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 classmates** in which you put forward **your own thoughts and views** on the following question:

“Homework – hateful, harmful, horrible?”

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

[24]

It is suggested that you **organise your time** like this:

- **10 minutes** *planning*
- **30 minutes** *writing*
- **5 minutes** *checking*.

You may use the space below to plan your response:

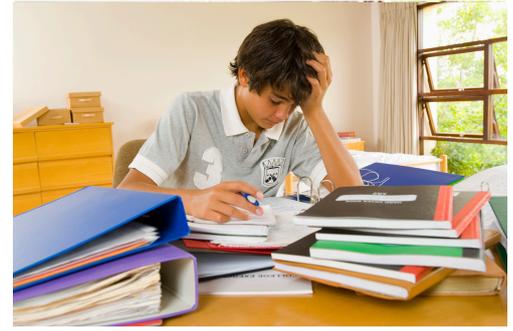
“Homework – hateful, harmful, horrible?”



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Below are some views to consider:

“Students need time to follow their hobbies and play some sport. Homework just gets in the way.”

“Doing homework can teach students how to manage their time better – so they can get their work done as well as meeting their friends.”

- Homework causes at least 50% of the arguments that teenagers have with their parents.
- Medical research has proved that coping with homework can lead to health problems: headaches, exhaustion, weight loss and stomach problems.

- Homework clubs in school give students a quiet, comfortable place to work.
- Homework allows students to go over again and understand fully the work they did in school so that they can achieve good grades.

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Section B: Reading Non-Fiction

Read the online article: “Self-important, moaning and annoying – who are they? Cyclists!” on Page 5

TASK 2

This article puts forward the writer’s strong opinions about sharing the roads with cyclists.

Explain how the writer has presented her point of view. Discuss how she has:

- expressed her feelings forcefully
- used particular words and phrases to highlight her views
- used different types of sentences to add impact

[24]

It is suggested that you organise your time like this:

- **10 minutes** reading and planning
- **30 minutes** writing
- **5 minutes** checking.

“Self-important, moaning and annoying – who are they? Cyclists!”

It happens every morning until about 10am. Outside my house is a sea of luminous Lycra-covered cyclists: four, five, sometimes six strung out across the whole road. As I hover nervously on the edge of the zebra crossing, I can't help but notice that it's the pedestrian who is in danger from this pedal-pushing mob.

Really, they are the most annoying road users. Think about it! When did you see any one of them being stopped by the police – for anything? When a motorist explains to two uniformed officers that the reason for the mobile phone in one hand is the traffic jam which has meant a missed appointment, what happens? An on-the-spot fine is issued. On the other hand, almost nothing cyclists do will ever get them fined!

They don't take a driving test, or pay road tax, or parking fines. And just why are they allowed to chain their stupid bikes up to lampposts on narrow pavements? Worse yet, cycling tourists wobble round the place without the foggiest idea where they are going. Often they are eating and sometimes, holding hands. Unbelievable! And do not get me started on mountain bikers who can ruin a quiet country walk quicker than wasps at a picnic ...

I myself used to cycle to work in central London. Until, that is, I was knocked off my bike by a driver turning left into Downing Street.

So, I understand that cycling is dangerous and drivers really should look out for cyclists in the city and on country roads too. But a recent newspaper article explaining that cyclists often jump the traffic lights in order to stay safe really made me see red.

And the fact that they feel at risk on the road is no excuse for the abuse they give pedestrians and drivers alike.

The taxi driver who was dropping me off at my place of work got it right. Several of the Lycra-clad louts cursed us loudly as they zoomed past – with added hand gestures. “Never pay for stuff; always moaning ...” he hissed, “a wheel menace!”

© 'Precious, moaning and tetchy - cyclists are the new women' by Liz Jones (freelance writer). Published in *The Mail* on Sunday 15-09-2013.

THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER

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