



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2017

English Language/English

Unit 2: Functional Writing and
Reading Non-Fiction

Foundation Tier

[GEG21]

FRIDAY 13 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 **an article for your school magazine** in which you put forward **your own thoughts and views** on the following topic:

“Teenagers should have a part-time job.”

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 your response to the task*
- **30 minutes** *writing your response*
- **5 minutes** *checking your work.*

You may use the space below to plan your response:



SOME OPINIONS ABOUT PART-TIME JOBS:

Teenagers have all their lives to work so they should enjoy their teenage years rather than working through them!

Having a part-time job looks good on an application form.

Part-time work is very demanding. Teenagers should be working hard at school work and getting good qualifications instead of serving food or stacking shelves.

SOME FACTS ABOUT PART-TIME JOBS:

- Jobs can teach teenagers life skills:
 - ✓ filling in an application form
 - ✓ doing an interview
 - ✓ managing their time
 - ✓ getting along with co-workers and managers.
 - Teenagers who have part-time jobs have some money that is their own.
- ****
- There are very few part-time jobs for teenagers at the minute.
 - It's a fact that teenagers who work more than ten hours a week at a part-time job end up with poorer exam grades.

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Section B: Reading Non-Fiction

Read the newspaper article: “School Sports Day – Annual Torture!” on Page 5.

TASK 2

This article puts forward a parent’s strong views about school sports days.

Explain how the writer has presented her point of view.

Discuss how she has:

- expressed her feelings strongly
- 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.

School Sports Day – Annual Torture!

It's that time of year again... Sports Day! Across the country children are running, jumping and hopping to the sound of a shrill whistle. Teachers are strutting around with clipboards, and for plenty of parents it's an annual torture!

So why has this seemingly innocent summer term event become something I dread?

To be honest, my dim view of sports days is probably rooted in personal childhood memories. As a kid, I hated sports day. I was just rubbish at everything! I earned the nickname "Greased Lightning" thanks to a rather too cautious approach to the obstacle course. Remembering that slow-handclap from most of the rest of the class as I made my way across the finishing line still makes me shudder – even now! Later, as a shy teenager, sports day continued to make me wince. Being told in front of my classmates: "Tracey, you'll be good at the shot-put!" More cringing embarrassment. I'm sorry, but has there ever been a teenage girl who wanted to be good at the shot-put? I don't think so!!

Now that I'm a parent, sports days still manage to cause me stress! I have to beg the boss for a few hours off work to watch small children fall over each other whilst tied together at the ankles. As well as that I have to put up with the endless number of races featuring other people's

children. And when the important race finally happens, I get the briefest glimpse of my own child sprinting away into the distance to finish fourth out of six (still better than I ever did)! Oh, I almost forgot to mention being cold and soaked through – the weather is usually a let-down as well!

These are minor irritations when compared with 'the parents' race'! The very words strike fear into my heart. I normally turn up, very deliberately, wearing all the wrong gear. This way at least I can't be expected to take part – even if I had wanted to – which of course I didn't. This means I am spared, along with my daughter, from the certain humiliation that my woeful running would certainly have caused. There's no more dreadful sight than battling mothers racing towards the finish line, sharp elbows jutting out!

I hope I'm fair-minded enough to recognise that those who are good at sports should be allowed to shine. Without such opportunities how will we encourage the next Jessica Ennis-Hill or Michael McKillop (the 22-year-old, from Glengormley, who won two gold medals at the 2012 Paralympics)?

My plea is that we find a way of letting these sporting youngsters succeed that doesn't involve the utter embarrassment of those who are really not very athletic...like me!

Adapted © 'Why parents hate school sports day' by Heidi Scrimgeour. Published by The Huffington Post, 22 May 2015

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