



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education
2016

English Language/English

Unit 2: Functional Writing and
Reading Non-Fiction

Foundation Tier

[GEG21]

TUESDAY 7 JUNE, 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**. Put forward **your own point of view** on the following statement:

“It’s a great time to be a teenager!”

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:

“It’s a great time to be a teenager!”



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“We are under lots of pressure – we want to get good grades, we want to be popular and we want to fit in!”

“Technology makes teenage life fun – computers, TVs, games consoles and smartphones are great!”

- “Young people have to put up with the negative side of digital technology like cyber bullying with its mean, hurtful comments and rumours.”
- ****
- “There are endless opportunities for teenagers today: exploring other countries; further education and training courses in almost anything you can think of; sports for everyone – whatever you want!”

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Section B: Reading Non-Fiction

Read the newspaper article: “Energy Drinks: Ticking Time Bombs for Teenagers!”

TASK 2

This newspaper article puts forward the writer’s strong views on the dangers of energy drinks.

Explain how the writer has presented his point of view. Discuss how he has used:

- a style of writing that helps him share his strong feelings with his readers
- particular words and phrases to highlight his concerns
- facts and opinions to support his view.

[24]

It is suggested that you organise your time like this:

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

Energy Drinks: Ticking Time Bombs for Teenagers!

Energy drinks are causing a buzz lately, and we're not talking about the boost that they claim to give you. Instead, they're all over the news. Fears are growing that teenagers are "overdosing" on energy drinks and putting their health at risk.

One widely accepted myth is that energy drinks are healthy. However, research shows that beyond a brief caffeine high, there are actually no health benefits to energy drinks. In fact, the mixture of different chemicals in these drinks is likely to do more harm than good, especially to children and teenagers.

Some of the unwelcome side effects of the drinks include anxiety, headaches and interrupted sleep patterns. A recent study suggests even more serious outcomes, such as heart attacks, strokes and sudden death. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recently announced that it is investigating 13 deaths and 33 hospitalisations caused by energy drinks. I know it's hard to believe that something that looks like a soft drink and tastes like a soft drink can cause this amount of harm.

These liquid perk-me-ups are the fastest growing product in the drink industry. According to the British Soft Drink Association 467 million litres of energy drinks were consumed in the UK last year – more than double what was consumed in 2006. These drinks that claim to "give you wings" and "unleash the beast" have turned sales into a £1 billion a year industry.

Sickly sweet, brightly coloured and guaranteed to energise the body *and* keep you awake, they have become the drink of the "cool set". Unfortunately, most consumers are unaware of what packs the punch in these drinks. Energy drinks are crammed with stimulants – some contain as much as 13 teaspoons of sugar and 160mg of caffeine. Does this sound like a drink you want your kids guzzling down to get them through the school day?

It is not surprising that the government adviser on school meals, John Vincent, recently said: "Energy drinks should be banned in schools because of fears they are affecting the behaviour and performance of pupils". He believes the UK should follow the lead of Iceland and Norway and ban the sale of energy drinks to under-16s.

X Factor judge Sharon Osbourne has blamed energy drinks for a seizure suffered by her daughter Kelly. It's time to treat these energy drinks the same as alcohol as, clearly, they are much more than just a can of sweet liquid!

Dentists have sounded the alarm against the consumption of these drinks which they say are causing permanent damage to teeth and describe them as essentially like bathing teeth in acid.

Teenagers shouldn't waste their energy on energy drinks. There are better and healthier ways to fuel their bodies. Try getting more sleep and drinking more water instead!

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