

**Modified Enlarged 24pt**  
**OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS**

**Tuesday 4 June 2019 – Morning**

**GCSE (9–1) English Language**

**J351/01 Communicating information and  
ideas**

**Reading Insert**

**Time allowed: 2 hours  
plus your additional time allowance**

**YOU MUST HAVE:  
the Question Paper**

**READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF**



# **INSTRUCTIONS**

**The materials in this Reading Insert are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.**

## **DETAILS OF TEXT EXTRACTS:**

### **TEXT 1**

**Text: adapted from ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’**

**Author: William Howard Russell (1854)**

### **TEXT 2**

**Text: adapted from ‘Let Us Make a Vow to the Dead’**

**Author: Ronald Reagan (1984)**

## **TEXT 1**

**William Howard Russell was sent by ‘The Times’ newspaper to report on the Crimean War from the frontline. This is an extract from his account of the Charge of the Light Brigade when a small number of cavalymen rode their horses into attack against Russian gun batteries even though they knew most of them would be killed.**

**At ten past eleven our Light Cavalry brigade rushed to the front. The whole brigade scarcely made one effective regiment. They swept proudly past,  
5 glittering in the morning sun in all the pride and splendour of war. We could hardly believe the evidence of our senses! Surely that handful of men were not going to charge an army in  
10 position? Alas! It was but too true – their desperate valour knew no bounds, and far indeed was it removed from its better part – discretion.**

**They advanced in two lines, quickening  
15 their pace as they closed towards the enemy. A more fearful spectacle was**

never witnessed than by those who,  
without the power to aid, beheld their  
heroic countrymen rushing into the  
20 arms of death.

At the distance of 1200 yards the whole  
line of the enemy gun batteries belched  
forth, from thirty iron mouths, a flood  
of smoke and flame, through which  
25 hissed the deadly cannon balls. The  
flight of the cannonballs was marked  
by instant gaps in our ranks, by dead  
men and horses, and by horses flying  
wounded or riderless across the plain.  
30 The brigade, however, never halted or  
slacked its speed for an instant.

With its diminished ranks thinned by  
those thirty guns, which the Russians  
had laid with most deadly accuracy,  
35 with a halo of flashing steel above  
their heads, and with a cheer which  
was many a noble fellow's death cry,  
the brigade flew into the smoke of  
the guns; but, before they were lost  
40 from view, the plain was strewn with  
their bodies and with the carcasses of  
horses. They were exposed to fire from

the gun batteries on both hills, as well as to direct fire of rifles.

- 45 Through the clouds of smoke we could see their sabres flashing as they rode up to the guns and dashed between them, cutting down the gunners as they stood. The blaze of their steel, as  
50 an officer standing near me said, was 'like the turn of a shoal of mackerel'. We saw them riding through the guns, as I have said; to our delight, we saw them returning, after breaking through  
55 a column of Russian infantry, and scattering them like chaff – but then the flank fire from a gun battery on the hill swept them down, scattered and broken as they were.
- 60 Wounded men and dismounted cavalrymen flying towards us told the sad tale – demigods could not have done what they had failed to do. It was as much as our Heavy Cavalry  
65 Brigade could do to cover the retreat of the miserable remnant of that band of heroes as they returned to that place they had so lately quitted in all the

**70 pride of life. At twenty-five to twelve not  
a British soldier, except the dead and  
dying, was left in front of those bloody  
Russian guns.**

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