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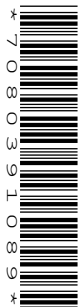
GCSE (9–1) English Language

J351/01 Communicating information and ideas

Reading Insert

Monday 5 November 2018 – Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours



You must have:

- the Question Paper

INSTRUCTIONS

- The materials in this READING INSERT are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.

INFORMATION

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

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Details of text extracts:

Text 1

Text: adapted from *A Living Wage for Factory Girls at Crewe* (1894)

Author: Ana Nield Chew

Text 2

Text: adapted from *The Secret Life of a Fast-Food Worker* (2016)

Author: Anonymous

Text 1

Ana Nield Chew worked as a tailor in a factory in Crewe and wrote a series of letters to the newspapers about working conditions in the factory. When her identity was discovered, she was sacked from her job.

Sir,

Will you grant me space in your sensible and widely-read paper to complain of a great grievance of the class to which I belong? I have hoped against hope that some influential man (or woman) would take up our cause and put us in the right way to remedy for the evils we are suffering from.

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But, although we cannot open a newspaper without seeing what all sorts and conditions of men are constantly agitating for and slowly but surely obtaining, only vague mention is ever made of the under-paid, over-worked 'factory girl'. And I have come to the conclusion, sir, that, as long as we are silent ourselves and apparently content with our lot, so long shall we be left in the 'enjoyment' of that lot.

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The rates paid for the work done by us are so fearfully low as to be totally inadequate to keep body and soul together. Well, sir, it is a fact that I could prove, if necessary, that we are compelled not by our employers but by stern necessity to work so many hours that life loses its savour and our toil, which in moderation and at a fair rate of pay would be pleasurable, becomes drudgery of the most wearisome kind.

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To earn what may be considered a good week's wage the work has to be so close and unremitting that we cannot be said to 'live' – we merely exist. We eat, we sleep, we work, endlessly, ceaselessly work, from Monday morning to Saturday night without remission.

Cultivation of the mind? How is it possible? Reading? Those of us who are determined to live like human beings and require food for mind as well as body are obliged to take time which is necessary for sleep to gratify this desire. As for recreation and enjoying the beauties of nature, the seasons come and go, and we have barely time to notice whether it is spring or summer.

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A 'living wage'? Ours is a lingering, dying wage. Who reaps the benefit of our toil? I read sometimes of a different state of things in other factories, and if in others, why not those in Crewe? I have just read the report by the government about our problems. Very good, but while the government is enquiring and reporting and making suggestions, some of the workers are being hurried to their graves.

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I am afraid I am trespassing a great deal in your space, sir, but my subject has such serious interest for me – I sometimes wax very warm as I sit stitching and thinking over our wrongs – that they, and the knowledge that your columns are always open to the needy, however humble, must be my excuse.

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I am, sir, yours sincerely,

A CREWE FACTORY GIRL

Text 2

This account of working in a fast-food restaurant is from a series in The Guardian newspaper in which workers give an anonymous account of their experiences.

You wouldn't believe some of the stuff customers complain about. I've been sworn at because the prices are up, the fries are cold, and they can't find the bacon on their burger.

I initially applied to work here because I was 16 and needed to fund my mobile phone habit. My expectations of the job were about the same as the reality. Constantly serving up the same meal over and over again while wearing an ill-fitting uniform is tedious.

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But there are a lot of perks and not just the ones that you'd think. Yes, I get free food on my break and a significant discount when I'm off the clock, but my company also organises group events such as bowling and paintballing so we can let off some steam.

Speaking of the food, everyone assumes I'd be sick of it by now. But to me all food is delicious, no matter how many times I've eaten it before, and there's enough variety on our menu to allow different choices every day.

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Unfortunately, I have put on weight since I started. Let's face it: if you eat fried food every day, you're going to pile on the pounds. It's amazing how quickly I got used to everything being greasy: it just feels natural now.

The war against processed food has spawned a barrage of claims about our food. But, if it's so disgusting and unhealthy, why do people keep coming back for more? Because it tastes good? Yes, but also because there is a guilty pleasure in convenience.

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I'm on a zero-hours contract but if I ever need an extra shift I can ask the scheduling managers and they're more than willing. Plus the government has brought in the living wage, and although I'm not yet 25, in the future I will be set to gain a sizeable rise from the legislation, if I'm still here.

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The way my hours swing sometimes does a number on my sleeping patterns: I go from working until midnight on Friday to starting at 7am on Saturday, and doing this five times a week during the summer holidays gets tedious, not to mention the ache your legs develop after nine hours on your feet.

It's not the most glamorous job in the world, but somebody's got to do it. In fact, I believe everyone should work in fast food for at least a short time. I have learned so many life lessons about how to deal with people and how to be positive in the face of extreme negativity. Working in fast food can definitely help you to get out of a pickle.

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