



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
Higher Tier  
January 2012

**English/English Language**

**ENG1H**

**H**

**Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts**

## **Insert**

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source 1:** an online newspaper article called *Britain's big problem with water* by Geoffrey Lean
- **Source 2:** an article called *Four amputations, 13 hours – one extraordinary swim* by John Lichfield
- **Source 3:** *Ferry across the lake* an extract from a non-fiction book by Christopher Ondaatje.

**Please open the insert fully  
to see all three sources**

Source 1

**The Telegraph**.co.uk

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## Britain's big problem with water

by Geoffrey Lean

Think of countries which don't have enough water and your mind might fly to arid, largely desert nations in the Middle East and North Africa. But, you could also consider somewhere closer to hand: the most prosperous part of our green and pleasant land is worse off than any of them.

That seems pretty improbable. After all, ours is a notoriously soggy nation where it often seems that, as Shakespeare put it, "the rain it raineth every day". But it's true. South East England has less water per head than the places above.

Partly that's because we are two nations when it comes to the weather. The North and West normally get plenty of rain – often more than they want – but the South and East receive less than some parts of the Mediterranean. Added to which, it's the most heavily populated part of the country.

Things are only going to get worse. Another one and a half million homes have been planned for the overcrowded region over the next 15 years. And global warming is expected to sharpen the dampness divide over the next 70, increasing rainfall sharply in the wet part of the country and cutting it by as much as half in the South and East.

Recent reports have predicted permanent water-rationing in the South East by 2025. And that families may face extra charges for using it excessively.

Yet half of all the housing built in Britain since the Second World War has been plonked down on land prone to flooding. Successive governments have neglected flood defences; when the big 2007 floods came, only about half were in good condition. As the South East gets drier, the damper part of the country is likely to suffer increasing floods. Already flooding is twice as frequent as it was 100 years ago, and the Environment Agency expects it to increase tenfold over coming decades.

A government report estimated that the cost of damage could rise from an average of around £2 billion a year to more than £25 billion by 2080. It has been suggested that new houses in the Thames Gateway should be built with their living areas on the first floor. Also that hospitals and other vital buildings should be built on high ground and railways and other essential infrastructure protected from flooding.

There are a few encouraging signs. Water companies are taking some measures to conserve supplies and local councils are finally beginning to take flood risk seriously in planning decisions. But we have hardly begun.



Extreme weather: we must prepare for a future of increasing floods.  
 Photo: James Boardman/Alamy

Source 2

# Four amputations, 13 hours – one extraordinary swim

16 years after losing all his limbs, Philippe Croizon crosses Channel

By John Lichfield



TWO YEARS ago, Philippe Croizon could barely swim at all. Now the 42-year-old French quadruple amputee has become the first limbless person to swim the English Channel. "I did it. I'm so happy. I can't believe it. It's crazy," he said after swimming the 21 miles from Folkestone to the French coast. Mr Croizon's legs and lower arms were amputated after he suffered a calamitous electric shock while removing a television aerial from a roof in 1994 when it hit a power line. As one of a series of challenges that he set himself to "prove that I am still alive", he learnt to swim using a snorkel and prosthetic legs with built-in flippers. To complete his Channel swim, he overcame not just his own handicap and the treacherous Channel tides and currents but the last-minute withdrawal of his support boat. Another vessel finally agreed to accompany him on Saturday. Mr Croizon had expected to spend up to 24 hours in the water. An "average" Channel swimmer takes around eight hours. After reaching a cruising speed of two miles an hour, and benefiting from favourable weather conditions, he completed the crossing in 13 and a half hours.

Mr Croizon said that he was once a "sofa sportsman" but had lost over one and a half stone thanks to an intense fitness schedule of weight training, exercise and swimming. "I am doing this above all for myself, but also to set an example. I want to show people who suffer that this is do-able, that you always have to fight."

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**Source 3**

Extract from *Journey to the source of the Nile* by Christopher Ondaatje is not reproduced here due to third party Copyright constraints. The full copy of this paper can be obtained by ordering English/English Language Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts (Higher Tier) (ENG1H) (2012 January) from the AQA shop.

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Source 2 and Source 3**