

GCSE English Language Past Paper Pack

Higher Tier

Name: _____

English Teacher: _____

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You are advised to spend one hour on Section A. Break that hour down like this:

Q1 12 minutes

Q2 12 minutes

Q3 12 minutes

Q4 24 minutes

You are advised to spend one hour on Section B. Break down that hour like this:

Q5 25 minutes to plan, write and check

Q6 35 minutes to plan, write and check

Source 1

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Rafting on the Grand Canyon

by Elisabeth Hyde

“Just two rules!” our guide Ed shouted. “Rule Number One – stay in the boat! Rule Number Two – stay in the boat!”

It was early July, and we (me, my husband and our three teenage children) were in the middle of a 13-day, 225-mile trip down the Colorado river through the Grand Canyon.

On the first day, the 22 of us stood at the starting point, blinking at the sight before us: a long line of 6m rafts, masses of gear, an army of river guides scurrying about. This would be our world for the next two weeks.

We were a mixed group: our fellow passengers ranged from our 13-year-old twin daughters to a couple in their mid-70s. You can't be shy on a Grand Canyon river trip. Not when you're spending two weeks with two dozen strangers, floating down one of the biggest rivers in North America. You're on the water for five to eight hours every day, and when you're off the water, you're eating, sleeping, and bathing together in one of the most spectacular environments on earth.

Our party filled five inflatable rafts, each rowed by a guide and four or six passengers. All the gear we could possibly need was strapped into these boats. It's the tightest packing system I've ever seen, so that passengers ride perched on the side tubes – prime seats with great views.



Rock, rocks, everywhere. During the calmer stretches our guides pointed out the various layers towering above us. Terracotta sandstone, flaky grey shale, massive maroon cliffs streaked with black – I kept straining my neck gazing up at the steep walls closing in on us.

Riding the rapids in the Grand Canyon is a Disneyland-like experience – one second you're plunging straight down into the trough of a wave, the next you're getting drenched with cold spray as the boat shoots up and over the crest. It's a white-knuckle, roller-coaster ride that has people screaming with the thrill of it.

Which brings us back to Ed's Rules. The only one who violated them during the trip was me. We hit one rapid at the wrong angle, and the boat rose up and pretty much ejected me into the foaming madness. For the next 45 seconds, I got sucked down and spun around and finally spat up into sunlight, gasping for air. Was I scared? A little. Exhilarated? More than I've ever been.

By the time we rowed the last stretch, toward Diamond creek, our clothes and hair held about a pound of silt each, but nobody cared. I welcomed the chance for a shower, but the trip left me with a desire to run away and become a river guide.

Source 2

Fearsome Tyrannosaurus rex Sue may have died of a sore throat

A parasite that infects pigeons made it increasingly difficult for the T. rex to swallow and led to starvation, a new study suggests.

by Ian Sample

Sue, the world's largest Tyrannosaurus rex, may have been brought down by a humble parasite.

The most famous specimen on public display was felled not in mortal combat, but by an infection that causes sore throats in pigeons.

Nicknamed Sue, the seven-tonne T. rex at the Field Museum in Chicago (pictured right) is the largest and most complete example of the prehistoric predator ever unearthed. The fossil stretches 13 metres from nose to tail.

The 65 million-year-old beast is known to have survived violent skirmishes that left her with three broken ribs, torn tendons and a damaged shoulder. But according to a study of Sue's remains, her death was far more ordinary than her combat-scarred remains suggest.



Researchers examined gouge marks in Sue's jaw that were thought to have been inflicted in one-on-one battles with other tyrannosaurs.

But closer inspection of the holes revealed striking similarities with indentations seen in modern birds that are caused by a common parasite that infects the mouth and throat.

As the infection spread, Sue would have found it increasingly difficult to swallow and may eventually have starved to death, according to the research. The parasite, which today causes mild infections in pigeons, doves and other wild birds, probably spread by biting.

Source 3**Everest The Hard Way**

Pete Boardman and Pertemba Sherpa have reached the summit of Everest and need to return to Camp 6 where their team member Martin Boysen is expecting their return. But their companion Mick Burke is still on the summit...

A decision was needed. I pointed at my watch and said, 'We'll wait ten more minutes.' Pertemba agreed. That helped us – it shifted some responsibility to the watch. I fumbled in my sack and pulled out our stove to leave behind. The time was up.

At first we went the wrong way, too far towards the South Col*. There was a momentary lessening in the blizzard, and I looked up to see the rock of the South Summit. There was still no sign of Mick and it was now about half past four. The decision had been made and now we had to fight for our own lives and think downwards. The early afternoon had drifted into approaching night and our success was turning into tragedy.

Pertemba is not used to moving without fixed ropes or in bad conditions. At first he was slow. Three times I virtually pulled him down in the sliding, blowing powdery snow. But he is strong and adaptable. He began to move faster and soon we were able to move together. Were we in the gully? I felt panic surge inside. Then I saw twin rocks in the snow that I recognized from the morning. We descended diagonally from there and in the dusk saw the oxygen cylinder that marked the top of the fixed rope over the rocks. We slid down to the end of the rope and tied a spare rope we had to it and descended the other hundred and fifty feet. From there we moved down and across for one thousand feet towards the last of the fixed ropes.

But as soon as we started we were covered by a powder-snow avalanche from the summit slopes. Fortunately our oxygen cylinders were still functioning and we could breathe. We threaded our way blindly across the thin runnels of ice and snow that covered the sloping rocks. I felt a brush of snow on my head and looked up to see another big avalanche coming, channelled, straight at me. I looked across. Pertemba was crouched to hold my fall, and was whipping in the rope between us tight to my waist. I smashed my axe into the ice and hung on. The surging snow buffeted over and around me for minutes. Then it stopped. Pertemba had held; the axe had stayed in the ice.

We moved on. It was a miracle that we found the last of the fixed ropes in the dark. On the fixed rope Pertemba slowed down and I pulled him mercilessly until he shouted that one of his crampons had fallen off. The rope between us snagged and, in flicking it free, I tumbled over a fifteen-foot rock.

At half past seven we stumbled into Camp 6. Martin was there and I burst into tears.

Pete Boardman

* Col: a mountain pass

January 2011 Higher Tier

Read **Source 1**, the online travel article called *Rafting on the Grand Canyon* by Elisabeth Hyde.

1. What do you learn from Elisabeth Hyde's article about where she has been and what she has been doing? (8 marks)

Now read **Source 2**, the article and picture which goes with it called *Fearsome Tyrannosaurus rex Sue may have died of a sore throat* by Ian Sample.

2. Explain how the headline, sub-headline and picture are effective and how they link with the text. (8 marks)

Now read **Source 3**, *Everest the hard way*, which is an extract from a non-fiction book.

3. Explain which parts of Pete Boardman's story of the return to Camp 6 you find tense and exciting. (8 marks)

Now you need to refer to **Source 3**, *Everest the hard way* and **either Source 1 or Source 2**. You are going to compare the **two** texts, one of which you have chosen.

4. Compare the different ways in which language is used for effect in the **two** texts. Give some examples and analyse what the effects are. (16 marks)
5. Write a brief article for a website of your choice telling your readers about an interesting or unusual travel experience or journey you have had. Explain why it was memorable. (16 marks)
6. Your school or college is inviting entries for a writing competition. The topic is 'Dangerous sports activities and pastimes are selfish, often put others at risk and should be discouraged.'
Write your entry arguing **for or against** this view. (24 marks)

Source 1

Telegraph.co.uk

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HOME EARTH GREEN POLITICS PLANNING

Wind farms could blight one in six beauty spots

One in six of the UK's officially-designated beauty spots could soon be blighted by wind farms.

By Ben Leach

Out of 89 sites given special protection due to the quality of their landscape, planning permission for turbines has been approved or sought at 14.

Affected areas range from Cornwall to the Lake District, the Outer Hebrides and the Shetland Islands. Campaigners claim that the projects would spoil much-loved views and have called for clearer rules on where wind farms can and cannot be built.

Environmentalists have called for a change in the planning system, and say the current arrangement has led to a "free-for-all" among wind farm developers. In Cornwall, plans to build 20 turbines, each 415ft in height – taller than Big Ben or St Paul's Cathedral – on land next to Bodmin Moor have been approved by the local council, despite opposition from Friends of the Earth, the RSPB and Natural England.



Experts have said the turbines will be visible from much of Bodmin Moor and will have a huge impact on an "iconic area of landscape".

The area is also home to a starling roost of more than one million birds and to thousands of golden plover, a protected species. Conservationists estimate that 16,000 starlings and dozens of golden plover would be killed every year by the turbines.

Arthur Boyt, the chairman of the Stop Turbines in North Cornwall campaign group, said: "This area of Cornwall is famous for the scenery and the views. It is a wild and beautiful area of countryside. The wind farm would violate what is a very tranquil, distinct and beautiful landscape, and reduce it to insignificance behind a barrage of rotating turbines."

Natural England, responsible for conserving England's landscape and wildlife, also opposes plans to build three 331ft turbines in Staffordshire, a wind farm on a cliff top on the Isle of Wight and nine 335ft turbines in Cumbria.

But Charles Anglin of the British Wind Energy Association, which represents the industry, said decisions should be made on a "case by case" basis.

He said: "The biggest threat to the UK's and the world's habitats and wildlife is catastrophic climate change. To do anything about that we have to change the way we use and produce energy and that does mean expanding the amount of renewable energy we use.

"The local impact is vitally important but it's part of the wider impact. We would be shooting ourselves in the foot if we rejected wind out of hand because of purely local considerations."

Source 2

Up, up and away—the day that armchair travel really took off

by Valentine Low



As the young stowaway says in the film *Up*: “You know, most people take a plane.” Jonathan Trappe did not take a plane. Yesterday as the sun rose over the Kent countryside he filled several dozen balloons with helium, strapped himself into a chair and headed across the English Channel.

Four hours later he landed in a cabbage field in France, the first cluster balloonist to cross the Channel and, for the French police who arrived to question him, possibly the most unexpected visitor of the year.

Mr Trappe, 36, just thinks it is fun. And much better than a hot-air balloon, “It is unique,” he said. “A hot-air balloon is beautiful but makes a huge roar. A gas balloon is the only kind of aircraft that flies in complete silence. I can hear the waves from a thousand feet.”

“Didn’t you have this dream,” he said, “just this wonderful fantasy of grabbing on to toy balloons and floating into open space?”

The Channel was, he said, an “iconic ribbon of water”, and yesterday he set off from the Kent Gliding Club to a destination unknown; although with any luck it was going to be in France rather than, say, the sea: with no immersion suit, Mr Trappe was ill equipped for a water landing.

“There are risks and we work methodically to reduce the risk so we can have a safe and fun flight,” said Mr Trappe, a trained pilot. “Because really it’s only about dreams and enjoying an adventure and that’s only enjoyable when it is safe.”

After touching down near Dunkirk he described sailing over the white cliffs of Dover as “an exceptional, quiet, peaceful and beautiful experience”.

Source 3**Storm at Sea**

Claire Francis is sailing alone across the Atlantic when she encounters gale force winds for the second time.

If the first gale was unpleasant, this one was appalling. Not only was I feeling unprepared for another blow so soon, but I was already exhausted from changing sails throughout the night. And, needless to add, I was soaking wet. But at least I could do something about my wet clothes and, full of anticipation, I went below to search out some dry ones. It was an impossible job. Every time I put my hand into a locker it came out wet and, as I discovered more and more dripping garments, my heart sank further and further. Out of piles of wet jeans, soaking sweaters, and clammy socks I salvaged one suit of polar underwear and a jersey. These I carefully hung on the clothes line over the stove where I defied a wave to reach them. One day when all the world was dry, I would put on those wonderful clothes and feel that life was approximately a hundred times better.

The movements of the boat were severe. She would rush at a wave, leap off the top, and then crash down on to the other side, give a quick roll or flip, then rush at another. Sometimes she found nothing but air as she leapt off a crest and there would be a ghastly moment of silence before a terrible juddering crash as the bows hit water again. At times like that it was easy to imagine that the mast had just broken or the hull split in two, for it seemed impossible that any boat could take such a beating. Water was streaming over her decks and her motion was as wild as a washing machine's. Like a dirty dishcloth I was spun rinsed, and tumbled about until I should have been whiter than white. I tried wedging myself in my bunk but nearly got thrown out, so I tied myself in and lay there in a state of mental paralysis, allowing no thoughts to enter my mind. I heard a banging and crashing sound above the racket of the gale as the boat jerked and gyrated but was too tired to go and investigate. Even if I had known that the loo had broken loose I wouldn't have minded much. But then another noise came to my bleary attention and this one could not be ignored. Something was hitting against the hull and even before I looked I knew what it would be. I had tied a sail down along the deck and, sure enough, the weight of water had pulled it free so that most of it was trailing in the sea. Five minutes later I had the sail below and another boot full of water.

If life was bleak then, it was bleaker three hours later. I allowed myself to become excited at the sight of a clear sky ahead and, quite certain the wind would drop, waited expectantly. The sun came out, the clouds disappeared, and then, to my dismay, the wind blew as strongly as ever, if not stronger.

June 2011 Higher Tier

Read **Source 1**, the online newspaper article called *Wind farms could blight one in six beauty spots* by Ben Leach.

1. What do you learn from Ben Leach's article about the issues and concerns regarding the building of wind farms? (8 marks)

Now read **Source 2**, the article and the picture that goes with it, called *Up, up and away – the day that armchair travel really took off* by Valentine Low.

2. Explain how the headline and picture are effective and how they link to the text. (8 marks)

Now read **Source 3**, *Storm at sea*, which is an extract from a non-fiction book.

3. Explain some of the thoughts and feelings Claire Francis has during the storm. (8 marks)

Now you need to refer to **Source 3**, *Storm at sea* and **either Source 1 or Source 2**. You are going to compare the **two** texts, one of which you have chosen.

4. Compare the different ways in which language is used for effect in the **two** texts. Give some examples and analyse the effects. (16 marks)

5. Sometimes difficult decisions have to be made. Describe a decision that you, or someone you know, had to make and explain the consequences.

Your piece will appear in the *Real Lives* section of your local newspaper. (16 marks)

6. Many people believe that it is our duty to cut back on our use of the world's resources, and that we must invest in greener forms of energy for the future – whatever the cost.

Write an article for an environmental website which argues **for or against** this idea.

(24 marks)

Source 1

The Telegraph.co.uk

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HOME > EARTH > EARTH COMMENT > GEOFFREY LEAN

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."

Source 3**Ferry across the lake**

On his journey to the source of the Nile, Christopher Ondaatje crosses part of Lake Victoria

Our tents were pitched right at the water's edge. Water hyacinths floated in front of us, and across the inlet we could see Mwanza, a vibrant African city that seemed to grow even as we watched it. I sat there on an inlet of a huge and beautiful expanse of water and thought about the role this mighty lake had played in the great explorations of the past.

The next morning, at 6:00 a.m. exactly, the fish eagles screeched their mocking cry. It was a wonderful way to wake up. An ibis bird also made its hideous shriek as it flew across the bay in front of our camp on the water. A few minutes later, we were treated to a spectacular sunrise. At first, a few glimmers of golden light; then the huge, red ball rose over the hills behind Mwanza. Apart from the occasional fishing boat, the scene was undisturbed. Little egrets and kites silhouetted themselves against the rising sun. An idyllic spot. This would be a good way to start every morning. No other sounds. Just the birds and the water lapping quietly on the shores of Lake Victoria.

Our plan was to go by the local ferry to Mwanza.

We managed to get to the ferry terminal well before 9:00 a.m., but already the crowds were so thick that we were not sure we could get on. The ferry, with us on it, eventually left at 9:30 a.m. The day got hotter and hotter with each minute.

The ferry was packed with buses, petrol tanks, vans, land cruisers, jeeps, fuel tankers, cars — and people. The people pressed up against the front of the ferry, along the sides and against the rails. They favoured brilliantly coloured clothing: shirts, T-shirts, dresses of red, violet, indigo, blue, green, yellow, and orange. It was as hot as hell — and getting hotter. People took refuge in the shade of the buses. We would be heading eastward into the sun and into the glare.

A year or so earlier, one of these ferries went down just outside Mwanza, and people were killed. How do they gauge the weight? There seemed to be no organized method. I wondered how much this decrepit old ferry boat could carry.

The engines started with a low rumble, and the ferry moved hesitantly forward and slowly entered Lake Victoria, a floating mass of metal and people. The engines vibrated; the passengers waited patiently. I could not believe that they could get this huge, heavy weight away from the slender landing pier and out onto the lake, but somehow the craft stayed afloat. We felt a bit of breeze at last as we slowly chugged into a little bay. We travelled northward first, out among a bevy of fishing boats, turned until the bow pointed back towards the ferry terminal, then headed east to Mwanza — apparently stern first. The journey across the gulf took about an hour. When we arrived in Mwanza at about 10:30 a.m., another teeming mass of people waited at the pier.

January 2012 Higher Tier

Read **Source 1**, the online newspaper article called *Britain's big problem with water* by Geoffrey Lean.

1. What do you learn from Geoffrey Lean's article about the issues of rainfall and flooding in Britain? (8 marks)

Now read **Source 2**, the article and the picture that goes with it called *Four amputations, 13 hours – one extraordinary swim* by John Lichfield.

2. Explain how the headline, sub-headline and picture are effective and how they link to the text. (8 marks)

Now read **Source 3**, *Ferry across the lake*, which is an extract from a non-fiction book.

3. Explain some of the thoughts and feelings Christopher Ondaatje has about his experience of Lake Victoria. (8 marks)

Now refer to **Source 3**, *Ferry across the lake*, and **either Source 1 or Source 2**. You are going to compare the **two** texts, one of which you have chosen.

4. Compare the ways in which language is used for effect in the **two** texts. Give some examples and analyse the effects. (16 marks)
5. Write a letter which you hope will be published in your local newspaper. Inform readers what leisure facilities are available for young people and families in your area and explain how you think they could be improved. (16 marks)
6. 'Life is too easy for young people today. They lack challenges and don't have to fight for anything.'

Write an article for a magazine of your choice which persuades readers that this statement is **either right or wrong**. (24 marks)

Source 1

**Lifesaving with Class** by Rory Stamp

'Help!' shouts an 11-year-old girl to her friend. 'I'm drowning! Help me!' Luckily, her friend knows exactly what to do - he quickly finds an RNLI (Royal National Lifeboat Institution) lifeguard, who springs into action.

Fortunately, this is not a real-life emergency on the beach. In fact, we're a long way from the sea. It's an inner-city school, and pupils are acting out a scenario as part of the RNLI's Beach to City programme.

Beach to City is based in inner-city areas aimed at educating children who live away from the coast.

RNLI lifeguards visit these areas educating children on the dangers of the seaside and how to stay out of trouble. The scheme is aimed at primary school children. Through close analysis of incident statistics, children living away from the coast in city areas have been highlighted as a high-risk group who are less likely to be aware of the work of the RNLI.

Each Beach to City Team is made up of an operational RNLI lifeguard and a beach safety supervisor. Their task is not an easy one. In 40 minutes they have to deliver key beach safety messages that children will listen to and retain. So the sessions are designed to be as memorable and fun as possible with plenty of play-acting to take part in and equipment to get to grips with.

Each session begins with an introduction to the RNLI charity and its lifeguard service. Children are taught how to identify lifeguards and where to find them. Then it's time for beach safety messages. First up, sun protection: slip on a T-shirt, slap on a hat, slop on the sun cream. Next up are the beach flags and their meanings.

Some children have an impressive knowledge of the flag system – though some seem to think the red flag (for dangerous water) means there's a shark about! Sharks don't present a threat to beach users but toy inflatable boats do, so guidelines on their use form a key part of the Beach to City programme. 'I used to patrol as a lifeguard in North Cornwall,' says Duncan Wood, a beach safety supervisor, 'and there were days when the majority of what we did involved rescuing children from drifting inflatables.'

Sessions also focus on the use of public rescue equipment (PRE), especially in Birmingham, with its extensive canal network. Respecting and using equipment such as life-rings, throw lines and emergency communications is very important. The PRE advice has also been aimed at schoolchildren in London, where the Beach to City programme visited 30 schools.

Next year the RNLI's Education Team aims to add a fourth city to the Beach to City tour, and plans to continue adding more in the coming years.



Source 2

Trapped Chilean miners: rescue drill reaches their refuge at last

9 October 2010

by David Batty



A man in a clown suit celebrates with a TV reporter after a drill reaches the miners.

A drill boring a rescue shaft to 33 trapped Chilean miners has broken through into an underground chamber where they have been stranded since August.

The major milestone at the San Jose mine came just after 8am Chilean time, and 65 days after the partial collapse of the gold and copper mine on 5 August.

“This is an important achievement,” mining minister Laurence Golborne said. “But we still haven’t rescued anybody. This rescue won’t be over until the last person below leaves this mine.”

The miners have been living in a shelter 700m underground. The drill has broken through into a tunnel that the miners can reach.

Word of the drill’s success prompted celebrations among the miners’ relatives who have camped there.

“Our nervousness is gone now,” said Juan Sanchez, whose son Jimmy is stuck below. “Only now can we begin to smile.”

Mr Golborne has warned that it will be three to eight days before the rescue mission can begin. Journalists from around the world have turned the previously remote hillside into a forest of TV antennas and motor homes as worldwide interest in the drama continues to surge. Families of the 33 trapped miners fear a media onslaught will overwhelm the men after they escape their underground dungeon.

Source 3

After their plane crashed high in the mountains of South America, two of the survivors left to find rescue for themselves and their companions.

Saved

The next morning they started out, but once again Parrado drew ahead, spurred on by his curiosity to see what lay at the end of the valley. Canessa could not keep up. Little of his strength had returned with the night's rest. When Parrado stopped and turned to call him to hurry, he shouted back that he was tired and could not go on.

They walked on, and slowly the sound of their cushioned feet on the snow, which had been all that broke the silence, was superseded by a roaring noise which grew louder and louder as they approached the end of the valley. Panic entered the hearts of both of them. What if an impassable torrent now blocked their way? Parrado's impatience to see what lay ahead now took complete possession of him. His pace, already fast, quickened and his strides grew wider over the snow. 'You'll kill yourself!' Canessa shouted after him as he drew ahead, yet he too was possessed not so much by curiosity as by dread of what they were to see.

Parrado drew two hundred yards ahead of Canessa and then suddenly found himself at the end of the valley.

The view which met his eyes was of paradise. The snow stopped. From under its white shell there poured forth a torrent of grey water which flowed with tremendous force into a gorge and tumbled over boulders and stones to the west. And more beautiful still, everywhere he looked there were patches of green—moss, grass, rushes, gorse bushes, and yellow and purple flowers.

As Parrado stood there, his face wet with tears of joy, Canessa came up behind him, and he too exclaimed with happiness and delight at the sight of this blessed valley. Then both boys staggered forward off the snow and sank onto rocks by the side of the river.

For more than an hour they rested in the sun, and, as if it were indeed the Garden of Eden, the birds they had hardly seen for so long perched close to them on the rocks and seemed quite unalarmed by the extraordinary apparition of these two bearded, emaciated human beings, their bodies padded out with several layers of filthy clothes, their backs humped with knapsacks, their faces cracked and blistered by the sun.

They were confident now that they were saved, but they still had to press on.

They started down the right-hand side of the gorge. Although there was no snow, the going was not easy. They had to walk on rough rocks and climb over boulders the size of armchairs. A little farther on they were brought to a halt by an outcrop of rock which rose almost sheer in front of them and fell away precipitously into the river on their left. They could see that the ground was more even on the other side of the river and rather than scale the obstacle in front of them they decided to cross the river which flowed with such force that it carried huge boulders with it.

June 2012 Higher Tier

Read **Source 1**, *Lifesaving with class*, by Rory Stamp, from the RNLI magazine, *The Lifeboat*.

1. What do you learn from the article about the Beach to City programme run by the RNLI?
(8 marks)

Now read **Source 2**, the article and the picture that goes with it called, *Trapped Chilean miners: rescue drill reaches their rescue at last* by David Batty.

2. Explain how the headline and picture are effective and how they link to the text.
(8 marks)

Now read **Source 3**, *Saved*, which is an extract from a non-fiction book.

3. Explain some of the thoughts and feelings Parrado and Canessa have whilst searching for rescue.
(8 marks)

Now you need to refer to **Source 3**, *Saved*, and either **Source 1** or **Source 2**.

4. You are going to compare the **two** texts, one of which you have chosen.
Compare the ways in which language is used for effect in the **two** texts. Give some examples and analyse the effects.
(16 marks)

5. Write an entry for your online blog which describes a time when you felt uncertain or unsure about a situation you were in and explain how you overcame it.

Blog: a regular online piece of personal writing. (16 marks)

6. It has been said that 'People who save lives or help improve the lives of others are the role models of today.'

Write an article for a newspaper in which you argue your view about what makes a good role model.
(24 marks)