Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1)

Monday 12 June 2023

Morning (Time: 2 hours 5 minutes)

Paper reference **1EN0/02**

English Language

PAPER 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

Section A: Reading Texts Insert

Insert Booklet

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Read the text below and answer Questions 1–3 on the Question Paper.

TEXT 1

Extract from 'An audacious dig for freedom beneath the Berlin Wall' by Justin Huggler (2014).

In this edited extract published in The Telegraph newspaper, Justin Huggler reports on how 57 people escaped from East Germany via a secret tunnel under the Berlin Wall.

The call came on Friday night, his sister's voice on the phone: "Can you come to Achim's parents' place tomorrow?" To anyone listening in, there would have been nothing suspicious about the call, but Hans-Joachim Tillemann knew it was the signal he had been waiting for.

The next day, he would be going under the Berlin Wall, in the most daring mass escape ever attempted from East Germany.

The border guards probably noticed nothing out of the ordinary about the small group that passed them the next evening. It was not unusual for passers-by to be a little nervous so close to the wall. But Tillemann knew it was their last chance to turn back as they passed the checkpoint*. From this point on, they were risking their lives: the border guards had orders to shoot.

He glanced over the wall, at the building opposite, just inside West Berlin. If anything had gone wrong, he'd been told, the escape team would shine a light from the top floor. There was no light.

The address they had been given was an apartment block a short distance from the checkpoint. Inside the door, someone was waiting. Mr Tillemann whispered the password: "Tokyo". The man motioned them to take off their shoes, to make as little noise as possible. They padded through the hallway in their socks, out the back door and into a courtyard.

A second man directed them to a disused outside lavatory. Inside, there was a small hole in the floor, just big enough for a man to slip through. A third conspirator showed them how to get in: you had to lower yourself in backwards, then slide into the tunnel. Tillemann stepped in. He found himself in a narrow tunnel, two feet high and three feet wide, and started crawling. He was under the Berlin Wall, on his way to freedom.

There were several people in the tunnel, all making their way under the wall. They were not allowed to bring any baggage, only their papers. To each side of them was loose dirt, but electric lights had been strung along the way. The space was so narrow one woman became stuck and had to be pushed.

Tillemann had his own problem getting through: he had needed an emergency operation for acute appendicitis a few days before, and the stitches were still fresh in his side. But the tunnel would be his last opportunity to get out of East Berlin, and he wasn't going to miss it.

"I don't know how long I was in the tunnel," he says. "You had no sense of time. But we knew it would end in freedom, so we kept going."

Tillemann was 20 years old in 1964, and he had already spent eight months in a Communist prison for trying to cross the Berlin Wall, which had been erected three years ago, cutting East Germany off from the outside world.

When Tillemann was released from prison, he still wanted to get to West Berlin, but he knew he was running out of time: his call-up papers for compulsory military service had arrived. The sister who remained in the East introduced him to some West German students, there as undercover couriers** with a remarkable piece of news: some fellow West Berlin students were digging a tunnel under the wall to get people out of the East.

*checkpoint** – a crossing point between East and West Germany

*couriers*** – messengers

Read the text below and answer Questions 4–7 on the Question Paper.

TEXT 2

Extract from 'Papillon' by Henri Charrière (1969).

In this edited extract from his memoir, French writer Henri Charrière, nicknamed 'Papillon', talks about one of his attempts to escape from prison. He was convicted of murder (which he denied committing) by French courts and sent to prison on an island which was part of a French colony.

That's all I lived for – escape, escape, by myself or with others: but in any case to escape, to have it away, to make a break. It was an obsession: I never talked about it, but it haunted me. And I'd accomplish my ideal without weakening: I'd break out and away.

One evening I said to another prisoner, 'I've got two thousand francs* for you if you'll make the thing I want – a raft big enough for two, in sections that'll fit together.'

'Listen, Papillon, there's no one else I'd do that for. The difficulty will be to find wood that floats, because here on the islands everything's hardwood and sinks. We must draw a scale plan to begin with and then make the pieces one by one, with mortises** so that everything'll fit together perfectly.'

'Listen carefully: this very day I'll set you up a defence in case of anything going wrong. I'll copy the plan of the raft on exercise-book paper myself. Underneath I'll write, if you don't want to be murdered, just you make the raft shown above. When each section is finished, you'll put it in a certain place. It'll be taken away. In this way I prevent you being tortured if you're taken, and you only risk six months at the most.'

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Now I only had to talk to Matthieu Carbonieri, for he was the man I wanted to make the break with. He agreed one hundred per cent. 'Matthieu, I've found a man who'll make me the raft: I've found a man who'll get the sections out of the yard for me. It's up to you to find a place in your garden to bury it in.'

'No, a kitchen-garden would be too dangerous, because there are screws*** that go stealing vegetables at night, and if they were to walk on the bed and notice it was hollow underneath, we'd have had it.

'I'll hollow out a place in a retaining wall – I'll take out a big stone and make a kind of little cave. That way, when a section comes along, I'll only have to lift the stone, hide the wood, and put it back again.'

'Should the sections be taken straight to your garden?'

'No, that would be too risky. The best thing is to work out a scheme to leave each piece in some different place, not too far from the garden.'

'Right.'

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It was a month now that plans for the break had been on the go. I'd already received seven pieces of the raft, two of them big ones. I'd been to see the retaining wall in which Matthieu had hollowed out the hiding-place. You couldn't see the stone had been moved, because he'd taken care to put moss all round it.

The fact that I was getting ready for a break put me in terrific spirits. I was eating better than I'd ever eaten before, and fishing kept me wonderfully fit. On top of that, I did more than two hours of physical training on the rocks every morning. It was my legs I concentrated on because fishing already looked after my arms.

*francs** – French money

*mortises*** – used to join pieces of wood together

*screws**** – prison guards

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Sources:

Text 1: https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/germany/11140109/An-audacious-dig-for-freedom-beneath-the-Berlin-Wall.html

Text 2: Henri Charrière, *Papillon*. Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd, 2005