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

Friday 6 June 2025

Morning (Time: 2 hours 5 minutes)

Paper reference **1EN0/02**

English Language

PAPER 2: Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

Section A: Source Booklet

Source Booklet
Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Advice

- Read the texts before answering the questions in Section A of the question paper.

Turn over ▶

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

TEXT 1

Extract from 'Freak Hurricane kills 13. Damage could top £100 million as southern Britain reels under the worst devastation since the war' (1987).

This edited article, published in The Guardian newspaper in October 1987, reports on an unexpected hurricane that affected the United Kingdom.

Thirteen people died, hundreds were injured, and damage estimated at more than £100 million was caused by the hurricane winds yesterday which left the worst trail of devastation and chaos in southern England since the last war.

Last night, countless families were homeless or without electricity, many roads remained blocked by debris and fallen trees and huge ships lay stranded, thrown on beaches by the ferocious storms which came out of the night.

While a Cabinet crisis meeting held back from declaring a state of emergency or the promise of Government money to help clear up the havoc an investigation was underway at the Meteorological Office* into why there was no proper forecast warning of the ferocious storms which were the worst in living memory.

The terrifying winds left the south paralysed as power lines were scythed by flying debris, roofs were torn off houses, buildings collapsed, transport systems halted and emergency services battled to retain control of a disaster which panicked millions of people who awoke at 3 am to find themselves living a nightmare. And the cost to commerce and businesses which were forced to close down as communications blacked out, could also cost the economy millions in lost trade.

In the aftermath of the storm, a ferry was last night still aground on Folkstone Beach. There were no passengers aboard when the vessel was snatched by the wind shortly after completing the night crossing.

Trains into and out of London were cancelled for several hours, ferries were out of service and Britain's two largest airports, Heathrow and Gatwick, experienced long delays. London's Underground system was halted because of lack of electrical power and even the money markets suspended business as computer systems went down.

But the 100 mph hurricane winds also wreaked destruction which might never be repaired or forgotten. Thousands of trees, torn from their roots, cathedrals battered and places like Kew Gardens** closed until further notice.

A third of the trees which have stood at Kew for hundreds of years were ripped out of the grounds and classic greenhouses worth millions collapsed like cards.

"Kew Gardens will never be the same again in our lifetime, it will take years and years to regrow the trees," said spokeswoman Christine Brandt. "We are devastated. Hundreds of trees have been uprooted – huge oak trees, black walnuts and tulip trees are gone. The staff are profoundly distressed. Everywhere we look trees are down or damaged, some of us have worked here for years and it is like our children are gone."

The Home Secretary maintained that the emergency services were "coping resiliently" after the night of storms. He said: "We have just experienced the most widespread night of disaster in the south-east of England since 1945. Windspeeds in excess of 100 mph have been recorded and a swathe of destruction has been left right across southern England."

The hurricanes crossed the coast of Britain at 11 pm on Thursday night only an hour or so after TV weather forecasters had predicted "windy weather" but nothing more.

By 3 am the eye of the hurricane read 107 mph, battering a path across London. 40

*Meteorological Office**** – the national weather service for the United Kingdom

*Kew Gardens***** – a Royal Botanic garden with a collection of plants for research, conservation and education

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

TEXT 2

Extract from 'Frostquake: The frozen winter of 1962 and how Britain emerged a different country' by Juliet Nicolson (2021).

In this edited extract, Juliet Nicolson looks back on the winter of 1962–1963, one of the coldest winters that Britain has ever experienced.

We had often heard the story of a morning long ago when our grandmother had woken beneath the not-quite-leak-proof ceiling of her bedroom to find she was lying under a thick counterpane* of snow. But that night, the night of the Boxing Day party, even in the darkness, this was the most snow, the snowiest snow, we had ever seen.

Outside freezing snowballs melted the second they hit the nape of our necks and we tipped backwards on to the lawn, arms outstretched like acrobats, trusting that the mattress of snow would break our fall. Tying a rope to an old abandoned wooden lavatory seat that we found in the back of a barn, we set about persuading any passing grown-up to swirl us around the lawn as we sat wedged into the oval hole, giddy with the novelty of it all.

By the end of the Bank Holiday in parts of the south of the country snowfall already measured two and a half feet. Families and friends who either hoped to get together or longed for the annual enforced sociability to be over faced disaster. With some unable to get to the holiday sanctuaries they had intended to visit, others were trapped in family prisons from which they longed to escape.

On 27 December *The Times* reported that every single county in England had been affected in some way by snow or ice, with Dorset, Devon, West Kent, Surrey and East Sussex the worst hit. In Kent the cold had been creeping up through the sea and it had become possible to walk a full mile on ice from the beach out into the open sea. Mini icebergs were seen floating in the River Medway. While Guernsey was celebrating its first white Christmas in forty years, the sea in Poole Harbour froze over for the second time in a quarter of a century, with giant floes** floating in the freezing water. The wings of trapped seagulls could be seen pointing up at the sky like miniature sails.

In the plummeting temperatures of South Devon the keepers of the four wild apes at Paignton Zoo were on twenty-four-hour patrol in case the animals made a dash for freedom and skated across the frozen moat that separated them from the public.

The RAC*** had put out a warning saying that cars were 'skipping about like learners on ice skates'. The weather continued to leave its imprint as snowfall swept across the country, main roads became blocked, vehicles were abandoned and grown-ups quickly became disenchanted as the RAC issued another image-laden warning to say that vehicles were sliding off roads 'like spinning tops'.

As the New Year approached the snow kept on falling. Ten inches lay on the tarmac at Gatwick: six thousand tons of the stuff had been cleared from the runways but not in time to avoid the cancellation of fifty outgoing flights. A helicopter ferried a nurse carrying life-saving insulin to her diabetic patient. On the higher ground, seventy cars and lorries were released from huge drifts by the RAC. The transport network had begun to buckle.

In Oxford home-owners on the banks of the Thames drove their cars across the frozen river to meet friends living on the opposite side. Estuaries and backwaters were glassy with ice, preventing water birds and wildlife that lived along the riverbanks from finding food. Kingfishers, waders and wildfowl died in their hundreds of thousands. 40

*counterpane** – bed covering

*floes*** – sheets of floating ice

*RAC**** – a national organisation that offers motoring services

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Source information:

Text 1: *Freak Hurricane kills 13. Damage could top £100 million as southern Britain reels under the worst devastation since the war*, 1987, The Guardian, 15 October 1987. © Guardian News & Media Ltd 2024

Text 2: *Frostquake: The frozen winter of 1962 and how Britain emerged a different country*, Juliet Nicolson, 2021, Penguin Random House