



**GCSE**

C700U20-1



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Component 2  
19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading  
and Transactional/Persuasive Writing**

WEDNESDAY, 7 NOVEMBER 2018 – MORNING

2 hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Resource Material for use with Section A.  
A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use pencil or gel pen. Do not use correction fluid.  
Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left hand margin at the start of each answer,

e.g. 

1	1
---	---

 .

Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

- Section A - about 10 minutes reading
  - about 50 minutes answering the questions
- Section B - spend 30 minutes on each question
  - about 5 minutes planning
  - about 25 minutes writing

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

**SECTION A: 40 MARKS**

Answer **all** of the following questions.

The **separate Resource Material for use with Section A** is a newspaper article, 'Nik Wallenda Makes History at Niagara Falls,' by Jacob Burnett.

The extract on the opposite page is from a biography of Blondin, a famous tightrope walker, called 'Blondin: His Life and Performances,' by George Banks.

**Read the newspaper article 'Nik Wallenda Makes History at Niagara Falls' in the separate Resource Material.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1 |
|---|---|
- (a) How far above the water was Nik Wallenda when he made his tightrope walk? [1]
- (b) Name **one** thing that made it difficult for spectators in Canada to see Wallenda making his crossing. [1]
- (c) Give the name of **one** of the spectators who watched Nik Wallenda. [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|
- How does the writer try to show that Nik Wallenda's tightrope walk was astonishing and dramatic?

You should comment on:

- what he says
- his use of language, tone and structure
- other ways the writer tries to show that the tightrope walk was astonishing and dramatic [10]

**To answer the following questions you must read the extract by George Banks on the opposite page.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 3 |
|---|---|
- (a) Give **one** detail from the text that suggests Niagara Falls is very impressive. [1]
- (b) What was the size of the crowd that watched Blondin walk across Niagara Falls? [1]
- (c) How long did Blondin's whole performance on the tightrope last? [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 4 |
|---|---|
- "In this extract, George Banks presents Blondin in a very positive way." How far do you agree with this view?

You should comment on:

- what the writer says
- how the writer says it [10]

*You must refer to the text to support your comments.*

**To answer the following questions you must use both texts.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 5 |
|---|---|
- Using information from both texts, explain briefly in your own words, how the spectators reacted to Blondin and Wallenda. [4]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 6 |
|---|---|
- Both of these texts are about tightrope walkers crossing Niagara Falls.

Compare:

- what Blondin and Nik Wallenda did during their crossings of Niagara Falls
- how the writers try to convey the dangers of crossing Niagara Falls [10]

*You must use the text to support your comments and make it clear which text you are referring to.*

Charles Blondin was a French tightrope walker and acrobat. He was the first man to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope. This extract is taken from a book about Blondin by George Banks, written in 1862.

### **Blondin: His Life and Performances**

To those who have never visited Niagara Falls, it is difficult to convey what a stupendous and awe-inspiring place it is, one of the grandest objects of nature which the world possesses. The chasm is 1100 feet across and spanning this tremendous space, at the dizzy height of 160 feet, was the fragile rope, fixed for the event on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1859. It was the first time that any human being had dared to cross the terrible Niagara. No human hand could extend the feeblest aid in case of accident, and to miss the footing was to meet with certain death.

An audience every way befitting the occasion graced the marvellous scene. Canadian steamers arrived, packed with visitors and the railway cars literally swarmed with eager and expectant eye-witnesses. In all, 25,000 persons were present and house-tops, windows, and all the points on nearby land were occupied with curious spectators. Every eye watched him as he made his appearance and the air rang with shouts and encouragement of the heartiest kind.

After inspecting the tightrope, Blondin picked up his balance-pole, stepped nimbly upon the rope and started on his journey from America towards Canada. Proceeding towards the centre of the rope, he seated himself complacently, and took a look at the scene around him. Starting again, he proceeded towards the shore, again stopped, lying at full length on his back for a moment, turned a back somersault, and regaining his feet, walked rapidly to his landing place. On his arrival he was greeted with loud cheers. After an interval of twenty minutes, he again made his appearance on the rope, this time with a picture-taking apparatus on his back. Advancing some two hundred feet from the shore, he lashed his balance-pole to the cable, unstrapped his load, adjusted it in front of him, and took a picture of the people and the shore. Having completed this, he shouldered the machine, unlashed his balance-pole and went backward to the place whence he came.

During these absolutely miraculous antics, the people held their breath, and several persons fainted. When all was over, Blondin reached the shore apparently barely tired, the whole performance having occupied about an hour. He was enthusiastically received on his arrival, many of the spectators eagerly pressing forward to shake him by the hand.



**SECTION B: 40 marks**

Answer Question 

2	1
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 and Question 

2	2
---	---

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*In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your writing skills.*

*For each question, 12 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 8 marks are awarded for vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.*

*Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.*

*You should aim to write about 300-400 words for each task.*

2	1
---	---

You are asked to give a talk to people in your class about your ambitions and what you hope to achieve in the next 10 years.

**Write what you would say in your talk.**

[20]

2	2
---	---

The text below was part of an article in a teenage magazine:

“I’m fed up reading about celebrities and sports stars behaving badly. They do no good and a lot of harm. The worst thing is that teenagers are easily influenced to think they can copy them and behave the same.”

**Write a letter to the magazine giving your views on the subject.**

[20]

*The space below can be used to plan your work.*

**END OF PAPER**



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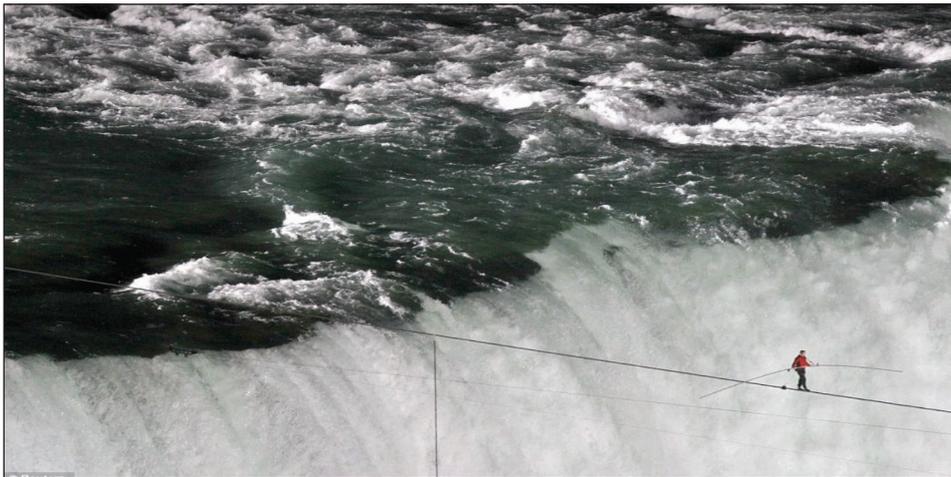
**RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR USE WITH SECTION A**

## Nik Wallenda Makes History at Niagara Falls

### Jacob Burnett reports on Nik Wallenda's tightrope walk across Niagara Falls.

No one else in the world has had the view of Niagara Falls that Nik Wallenda had as he stared down into the churning waters 60 metres below and was enveloped in the mist from the thundering falls.

One careful step at a time Wallenda battled winds and near-blinding spray to make history, becoming the first person to walk across Niagara Falls on a tightrope for more than 100 years.



Wallenda was unbelievably calm as he slowly, painstakingly, proceeded step-by-step along the steel cable stretched across the falls. He even found time to give an interview as he was perched precariously over the raging waters below. "To be directly in the middle, directly above the falls...it takes your breath away. It's just unreal," he told the television company, which was broadcasting the spectacle live.

A crowd of over 125,000 people packed the roads by the falls – some waiting more than 12 hours to watch the historic performance – and they erupted with cheers as Wallenda ran the last few steps to the safety of the platform anchored in Canadian turf.

"The most amazing part was when he was on the wire and he was waving at the people," said eight-year-old William Clements, jumping up and down with excitement as Wallenda knelt down on the wire toward the finish, took a hand off his balance bar and waved.

Wallenda started his journey on the American side of the falls and finished less than half an hour and 500 metres later on the Canadian side. The distance and the heavy mist made it difficult for those watching in Canada to see exactly when Wallenda set foot onto the wire, but eventually his red jacket came into view.

Wallenda has been walking wires since he was a child and he comes from a long line of circus artists. He has performed many death-defying acts in his time, and normally Wallenda said he focuses on the movement of the wire to guide him, but when he looked down to see fast-moving water and looked up to see rising mist, it posed a "very unique, weird situation". As a result he ignored the first rule of tightrope-walking and instead of looking straight ahead he looked down as he walked. He concentrated on placing one steady foot in front of the other, trying not to get distracted by the raging waters below. He said that he could see the thousands of camera flashes as he approached and heard the roar of the crowd only once he was almost safely across.

The crowds of people came with chairs, umbrellas, snacks and sunscreen to stake out the best viewing spots. Muriel Marsh, 81, claimed her spot on a hill at 7 a.m. Friday. "To see this fellow walk across on the wire, I think that's fantastic and very brave and very clever," she said.

Bert Dandy and his family arrived at 10 a.m., about 12 hours before Wallenda started his walk. He was sitting in a deckchair with an unobstructed view of the whole wire. He said to his children, "This is a once-in-a-lifetime event. It's history in the making."

For Wallenda, his daredevil act was all about fulfilling his personal dream. He had spent years preparing for the walk, both by practising on a wire and filling out endless paperwork to be allowed to attempt the crossing. He punched the air when he made it to the other side and he said he hoped people would take inspiration from his achievement.

"The impossible is not so impossible if you set your mind to it," Wallenda said. "Reach for the skies and never give up."