



GCE AS/A Level

2700U10-1 – **NEW AS**



ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Unit 1
Exploring Language

A.M. MONDAY, 23 May 2016

1 hour 45 minutes

2700U101
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ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer both questions: one question in Section A and one question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question. You should divide your time accordingly. As a guide, you are advised to spend an hour on Section A and 45 minutes on Section B.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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Section A**Analysing Language**

1. The two texts printed on pages 4 and 5 are about the deaths of adrenaline enthusiasts. Read Texts A and B and then answer the question below.

Analyse and evaluate the language used in each of the texts to describe the dangers and risks of thrill-seeking pursuits.

In your answer, you should consider:

- how the writers portray the pursuits of the adrenaline enthusiasts and their untimely deaths
- the purpose of each text and the ways in which the writers engage their audiences
- the similarities and/or differences between the texts

[55]

Text A is an extract from an opinion article written in the immediate aftermath of the death of Australian wildlife expert Steve Irwin. It was published by *The Guardian* online (September 2006).

Text B is an extract published in the adventure section of *Men's Journal* online (May 2015) about the deaths of American BASE-jumpers Dean Potter and Graham Hunt.

Text A: an opinion piece published by *The Guardian* online**That sort of self-delusion is what it takes to be a real Aussie larrikin¹**

Germaine Greer

September 2006

5 The world mourns. World-famous wildlife warrior Steve Irwin has died a hero, doing the thing he loved, filming a sequence for a new TV series. He was supposed to have been making a new documentary to have been called *Ocean's Deadliest*, but, when filming was held up by bad weather, he decided to "go off and shoot a few segments" for his eight-year-old daughter's upcoming TV series, "just stuff on the reef and little animals". His manager John Stainton said, "It's fine, anything that would keep him moving and keep his adrenaline going." Evidently it's

10 Stainton's job to keep Irwin pumped larger than life, shouting "Crikey!" and punching the air. Irwin was the real *Crocodile Dundee*, a great Australian, an ambassador for wildlife, a global phenomenon, a superhuman generator of merchandise, books, interactive video-games and action figures. The only creatures he couldn't dominate were parrots. A parrot once did its best to rip his nose off his face. Parrots are a lot smarter than crocodiles.

15 What seems to have happened on Batt Reef is that Irwin and a cameraman went off in a little dinghy to see what they could find. What they found were stingrays. You can just imagine Irwin yelling: "Just look at these beauties! Crikey! With those barbs a stingray can kill a horse!" (Yes, Steve, but a stingray doesn't want to kill a horse. It eats crustaceans, for God's sake.) All Australian children know about stingrays. We are now being told that only three people have

20 ever been killed by Australian stingrays. One of them must have been the chap who bought it 60 years ago in Brighton Baths where my school used to go on swimming days. Port Philip Bay was famous for stingrays, which are fine as long as you can see them, but they do what most *Dasyatidae* do, which is bury themselves in the sand or mud with only their eyes sticking out. What you don't want to do with a stingray is stand on it. The lashing response of the tail is automatic; the barb is coated with a bacterial slime as deadly as rotten oyster toxin.

As a Melbourne boy, Irwin should have had a healthy respect for stingrays, which are actually commoner, and bigger, in southern waters than they are near Port Douglas, where he was killed. The film-makers maintain that the ray that took Irwin out was a "bull ray", or *Dasyatis brevicaudata*, but this is not usually found as far north as Port Douglas. Marine biologist Dr Meredith Peach has been quoted as saying, "It's really quite unusual for divers to be stung unless they are grappling with the animal and, knowing Steve Irwin, perhaps that may have been the case." Not much sympathy there then.

35 The only time Irwin ever seemed less than entirely lovable to his fans (as distinct from zoologists) was when he went into the Australia Zoo crocodile enclosure with his month-old baby son in one hand and a dead chicken in the other. For a second you didn't know which one he meant to feed to the crocodile. If the crocodile had been less depressed it might have made the decision for him. As the catatonic beast obediently downed its tiny snack, Irwin walked his baby on the grass, not something that paediatricians recommend for rubbery baby legs even when there isn't a stir-crazy carnivore a few feet away. The adoring world was momentarily appalled. They

40 called it child abuse. The whole spectacle was revolting. The crocodile would rather have been anywhere else and the chicken had had a grim life too, but that's entertainment at Australia Zoo.

¹larrikin: Australian slang, a boisterous, often badly behaved young man; a maverick

Text B: an article published in the adventure section of *Men's Journal* online**The Last Flight of Dean Potter**

Daniel Duane

May 2015

5 At 7:25 pm on Saturday, May 16, Dean Potter zipped up his wingsuit, and, with friend Graham Hunt stepped to the edge of Taft Point, 3,500-feet above the floor of Yosemite Valley. Their plan was to jump off, rocket across a canyon below, and, if they were high enough, shoot through a V-shaped notch in a neighboring ridgeline above a cliff called Lost Brother. They would deploy their parachutes further up the valley. Potter's long-time girlfriend, Jen Rapp, photographed them as they leapt. Far below, Hunt's girlfriend, Rebecca Haynie, waited for the landing. It never came.

10 "I can't tell you the anger and frustration I felt, hearing that it happened there," says Maxim de Jong, an aerospace engineer, wingsuit designer, and friend of Potter's. Wingsuit BASE-jumping works by first free-falling off some fixed point, like a cliff. Air pressure then inflates the suit, stiffening the fabric wings sewn between arms and body, and also between the legs. Only then can a wingsuit flyer project speed forward, instead of just falling straight down.

15 According to Chris MacNamara, a pioneering American wing-suiter, a rock dropped from Taft Point will fall six seconds before impact. For a wing-suiter, that means an initial free-fall is just long enough to inflate the suit and get moving forward. Plus, evening often brings so-called catabatic winds — cold mountain air falling down the cliff face like water, drawing a wingsuit unpredictably downwards. According to de Jong, Potter understood these hazards well. Nevertheless, Potter and Hunt spread their arms that evening, dropped, and began to soar.

20 Potter never flinched from his approach to the gap in the rocks, but Hunt initially swerved left as if to avoid it. Then, perhaps seeing that Potter was committed to the gap, Hunt banked hard right, re-joining him. This set Hunt on a diagonal path over Potter and across the gap — instead of straight through it — causing him to strike the far wall. What happened to Potter himself is less clear. He made it through the gap — confirming his initial judgment that he was high enough — but struck rocks beyond.

25 Potter never flinched from his approach to the gap in the rocks, but Hunt initially swerved left as if to avoid it. Then, perhaps seeing that Potter was committed to the gap, Hunt banked hard right, re-joining him. This set Hunt on a diagonal path over Potter and across the gap — instead of straight through it — causing him to strike the far wall. What happened to Potter himself is less clear. He made it through the gap — confirming his initial judgment that he was high enough — but struck rocks beyond.

30 One possibility is that Hunt, flying so close above Potter, caused air turbulence that destabilized Potter at a critical instant. Another is that Potter heard or saw Hunt's impact and flinched in a way that changed the flight aspect of his wingsuit, at precisely the moment when there was no margin for error.

Both died on impact.

Section B

Contemporary English

2. The following set of data, sent from different Twitter accounts, contains tweets about the naming of a royal baby.

Read the data then answer the question below. You should use appropriate terminology and provide relevant supporting examples.

Using your knowledge of contemporary English, analyse and evaluate the ways in which contextual factors affect how writers use language in Twitter posts. [25]

TEXT 1 (a member of the public)

terri

@terrimouse

That little baby has no idea who she is to the world, and how much people already love her. And what her name means. **#RoyalBaby**

TEXT 2 (then leader of the Labour party)

Ed Miliband

@Ed_Miliband

Wishing Princess Charlotte Elizabeth Diana a long & happy life. I hope the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge are enjoying their first, special days.

TEXT 3 (*The Guardian* web news editor)

Jonathan Haynes

@JonathanHaynes

Miliband beats Cameron to **#RoyalBaby** name tweet. The man is so all over social media.

TEXT 4 (a cartoonist)

mike stokoe

@mikestokoe

AT LAST! The Wait is over...they're calling her Tracey! **#RoyalBaby**

TEXT 5 (an independent news and commentary website)

The Conversation

@Conversation

Royal propaganda tries to make hereditary millionaires seem like the rest of us **#RoyalBaby**

TEXT 6 (a member of the public)

Leonard

@LeoDah93

It's a good thing that the royals give their children proper names and don't jump on the celebrities-crazy-baby-name bandwagon. **#RoyalBaby**

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