



GCSE

4171/01



S16-4171-01

**ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION TIER
UNIT 1 (READING)**

A.M. TUESDAY, 7 June 2016

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material.

You will need a WJEC pink answer booklet, which has been specifically designed for this examination. No other style of answer booklet should be used. If you run out of space, use a standard 4-page continuation 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.

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

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

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

e.g.

0	1
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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer **all** of the following questions.

The **separate Resource Material** is an internet article, 'The Thrills of Mountain Biking' by Michael Stafford.

On the opposite page is a newspaper report, 'Downhill All the Way in the Welsh Valleys' by Christopher Wakling.

Read the **first page** of the internet article in the separate Resource Material, 'The Thrills of Mountain Biking' by Michael Stafford.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
|---|---|
- a) List **five** differences, mentioned in the article, between a mountain bike and a normal road bike. [5]
- b) List **five** pieces of equipment, mentioned in the article, which a mountain bike rider may use. [5]

0	2
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Now read the **second page** of the internet article.

What impressions do you get of Rachel Atherton from the second page of this article? [10]

Now read the newspaper report, 'Downhill All the Way in the Welsh Valleys' by Christopher Wakling.

0	3
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How does the report try to persuade you to visit BikePark Wales? [10]

You should write about:

- what is said about the place
- the words and phrases used
- any other ways the writer tries to persuade you to visit

To answer the next question you will need to refer to both texts.

0	4
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Compare and contrast the two texts using the following headings: [10]

- The dangers of mountain biking
- The financial costs of mountain biking

You must make it clear from **which text** you get your information.

Downhill All the Way in the Welsh Valleys

I have always liked the sound of the word hooning, without really knowing what it means. I think I do now. When a mountain biker is hooning, he or she is flying down a big hill, grinning.

BikePark Wales is hooning heaven. As the name suggests it is a mountain bike park in Wales, just outside Merthyr Tydfil. The centre boasts miles of beautiful countryside and challenging downhill tracks. Try it out – you are sure to end up hooning.

There are a number of mountain biking parks in Wales, but BikePark Wales is the most ambitious centre of them all. Five years in the making, the park has twenty-three trails graded like ski runs, from green – mild enough to roll along with small children – through blue and red for intermediate to experienced riders, to black and pro-line descents that are serious enough to challenge the very best or completely mad.

Mountain biking is a hazardous sport if you don't know what you are doing. When I visited BikePark Wales, staff at the centre explained it is dangerous if an individual attempts to ride a trail beyond their level of ability. The most difficult routes involve steep descents and aerial leaps over both natural features and mudslides. These are challenging and exhilarating, but clearly if things go wrong there can be serious injuries.

To make your trip to BikePark Wales more enjoyable a minibus and trailer will take you and your bike up to the summit as many times as you can handle for £30 a day. Book well in advance because the service is in great demand.

If you prefer to earn your descents the hard way, for just £5 you can cycle up as well as down all day. When I visited I made use of the minibus service, but even so I barely managed to cover half of the park's available downhill runs.

Director Martin Astley stresses that the park has been developed by passionate mountain bikers keen to spread the fun as widely as possible. He says, "Come with your kids; under 10s ride for free. Our aim is to put a smile on everyone's face as well as ours."

Martin had a route he wanted me to ride. I was nervous, but as we zoomed dramatically downwards it felt fantastic. I was reminded how dangerous it could be when I looked up, lost concentration and fell off. Fortunately Martin had insisted I wear protective gear, which was expensive but worth it.

Thirty-five thousand riders from all over the UK and Europe are expected here this year. As well as the exciting trails they'll find a huge bike shop, a hire and repair shop and a splendid cafe specialising in scrumptious bacon sandwiches. BikePark Wales is well worth a visit. Give mountain biking a go and discover what hooning feels like. I guarantee it's an experience you'll never forget.

Christopher Wakling

Adapted from i Newspaper (September 2013)



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Resource Material

The Thrills of Mountain Biking

Mountain biking is very popular in Britain and in 2013 England's Rachel Atherton became downhill mountain biking world champion.

Mountain biking is the sport of riding bicycles off-road, often over rough ground. Mountain bikes are different from normal bikes because they have a smaller, re-enforced frame made of wider tubing. They also have a higher handlebar, which allows a more upright riding position. Mountain bikes' tyres have a bigger tread and are stronger than the tyres of normal bikes.



It is important that mountain bikers wear the correct equipment. Helmets are essential and provide important protection and can cost hundreds of pounds. Risk of injury is always present in mountain biking, ranging from cuts and bruises to major injuries such as broken bones, head or spinal injuries, resulting from collisions with rocks, trees or the terrain being ridden on. Body armour can be worn to protect limbs in the event of a crash. Glasses help protect against loose stones which can fly up and damage eyes. The gloves mountain bikers wear are different from ordinary gloves because they have cushioned thumbs and fingers with extra padding.

Mountain bikes usually have specifically designed pedals, and the cyclists wear protective shoes with a sole that clips into the pedal. Different from other bikes, mountain bikes have disc brakes and lower ratio gears to help riders climb steep hills and cross obstacles.

World champion Rachel Atherton explained why she is so attracted to mountain biking. “I hate to use the phrase ‘adrenaline junkie’, but it’s pretty close. You’re fast, you’re coming down the hill between rocks and roots and it’s all on you. You can’t make a mistake.” Downhill mountain biking consists of racing down hillside courses packed with jumps and obstacles – the rider with the fastest time wins. It has been described as one of the world’s most dangerous sports.



Rachel won her first world championship in 2008, aged 18, and the future looked bright. However in 2009 she crashed into a pickup truck whilst training. She sustained a dislocated shoulder and did not race again that year. With great determination and single-mindedness Rachel battled back to full fitness, but even now she finds sleep hard because of the pain, though she’s prepared to pay that price.

Rachel has devoted her life to mountain biking; when not biking she’s training hard in the gym to improve her fitness. She lives with her two older brothers, Dan and Gee, and the three of them have formed Atherton Racing, living, working and travelling the world together. Rachel admits, “It does get intense being together so much and there are lots of arguments between us, but you’ve got to sacrifice something to have this life and living with your brothers is certainly a sacrifice.” Gee is an ex-world champion, but Dan no longer competes. He went over the handlebars when cycling and broke his neck, though his first concern was the damage to his bike. After all, a good mountain bike costs thousands of pounds. It was only later he realised he could have been killed or paralysed.

Rachel’s friendly personality hides a deeply competitive instinct whether fighting her corner over the washing up or hurling herself down a mountain, over rocks, down crevices and mudslides at 35 miles per hour. Reflecting on her 2013 world championship race, Rachel says, “I was tired, I wasn’t quite up for it but when I’m racing I turn into a different person. My eyes narrow, I grit my teeth and stick two fingers up to the world. I’m world champion but I cannot sleep for thinking about being beaten.”

Rachel recognises racing is her life, even though she admits, “Sometimes I do ask myself if it’s worth it. You spend half your time racing and the other half being injured. But once you are back racing you are free and have that space and you realise you can’t stop.”

Michael Stafford



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