GCSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

For examiner use	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Materials

A black pen.

Instructions

• Answer every question.

• Write in the answer spaces provided.

• Keep your answers inside the page borders.

• Use the additional lined pages if you need more space and identify the question number.

• Cross out rough work you do not want marked.

• Do not use a dictionary.

Information

• This paper carries 80 marks: 40 for reading and 40 for writing.

• Marks are shown beside the questions.

• Write clearly and use accurate English.

Advice

Allow about 15 minutes to read the sources and questions. Plan your writing response and leave time to check your answers.

Source A

A contemporary article considers the people and preparation behind RNLI lifeboat rescues.

A lifeboat rescue may begin with a pager sounding while someone is at work, with family or asleep. Across the United Kingdom and Ireland, RNLI crews can be called out at any hour. Most crew members are volunteers. Their readiness is supported by regular training, both on the water and on land. When a request for help arrives, the coastguard contacts the station's operations manager or launch authority; a decision to launch must be made before the crew are paged.

The people who put to sea are only part of that response. Shore crew help to launch and recover the lifeboat and make it ready for another call. Depending on the station, preparations can involve opening doors, clearing a slipway or getting launching equipment ready. Boat crew prepare their protective kit while others prepare the means of departure. The visible movement towards the water depends on work that is less likely to appear in a photograph.

Training gives this divided work a common direction. A volunteer must learn more than the position of a rope or the operation of a piece of equipment. Practice allows people to develop reliable actions, communicate and understand their responsibilities. Exercises on shore and afloat are therefore part of lifesaving, even when nobody is being rescued. The quiet session without a crowd has value because a later emergency may allow little time for explanation. Preparation makes cooperation possible.

None of this removes danger. A lifeboat operates in an environment that cannot be ordered to become calm. Information must be gathered, a crew assembled and a judgement made about the response. Courage is needed, but courage does not mean ignoring everything that could go wrong. A decision has consequences for rescuers as well as for the people waiting for help. The strength of an organised service lies partly in making responsibility something that is shared rather than simply admired.

The launch is the sharp edge of a much longer effort. Behind it lie repeated exercises, checked equipment and tasks completed when the sea has attracted no headlines. A single successful action can catch the eye; the patient work that makes it possible slips out of sight. Yet readiness is not a heroic possession that one person keeps in a pocket. It is a net of dependable actions. Pull away the unnoticed strands and the impressive moment has less to rest on.

Public recognition often prefers a face to a system. One portrait gives a story a centre, while a list of roles can seem less memorable. That does not make individual bravery unimportant. A particular decision may deserve particular praise. But a rescue described only through its most striking figure leaves something out. The person aboard the boat belongs to a larger group of people whose contributions differ in visibility, not necessarily in worth. Recognition

becomes fairer when it can hold both ideas at once.

The work also reaches beyond the station. The RNLI is a charity, and public support helps provide boats, equipment and training. Those resources connect people who may never meet. A donation, a training session and a prepared launching system are different contributions, but all belong to the same practical purpose. The link is not made by applause alone. It has to be maintained through the less spectacular business of supporting people and making sure that a service can continue to respond.

A better account of lifesaving would therefore look at the whole chain, without pretending that every link does the same job. It would notice the person who goes to sea and the person who helps bring the boat back. It would leave room for preparation as well as action, for judgement as well as daring. The most useful tribute to a rescue team is an understanding of what its members make possible together. The boat may leave the shore, but the effort that carries it does not end there.

Source B

In this nineteenth-century biographical account, Grace Darling and her father row towards people stranded after a shipwreck in 1838. A coble is a small fishing boat.

It is said that Grace was the first to seize an oar, and spring into the boat; but her father, who was a brave man, quickly followed, and the two were soon working together in harmony. They scarcely spoke at first, William Darling only giving Grace a few directions with regard to the management of the boat, and then both used their utmost endeavours to propel her towards the desired spot.

One moment we must linger to look at the heroic girl as she sits firmly in the boat, with a steady light in her eyes, lips firmly compressed, and strong brave heart. Could we have seen Grace Darling in more attractive guise? The thunderous waves were leaping and foaming around the little boat; the dark clouds were lowering, and the winds blowing furiously. The afrighted sea-birds looked at them, and screamed shrilly as they saw the boat rocked to and fro, now leaping on the top of a wave that tossed it high, and now sinking down, down, as if it were going to the very bottom of the deep. But Grace was not afraid. She scarcely thought of the danger; for her heart and sympathy were with those who were on the rock. Long before she got to them, her imagination pictured the patient faces, full of pain, which would grow bright when they saw her; and as she thought of them, her arm gained new strength, and she went on again more energetically than before. Was she, indeed, a girl? Had she sisters, who cried out if a pain touched them, and who were always helplessly appealing to men for help? Did she know what fear was? Yes; she knew that she would always be afraid of her own thoughts, if she did not what she could to rescue the shipwrecked strangers.

On they went, over the stormy waters, every minute being nearer their goal. The foam dashed in the face of the intrepid girl, and the salt water made her eyes smart; but she did not relax her efforts, but kept nobly and steadily at her work. Her father could not but admire her courage; and the sight of it gave him even more determination to succeed.

"Are you getting tired, my girl?" he asked presently.

"Not very, father. We shall do it," she replied.

"Yes, I really hope we shall. There they are, poor wretches, glad enough to see us, I know. It is a good thing it is an ebb tide. If it had not been, we could not have passed between the islands. It will be flowing when we come back; and if there are no sailors to help us, we may as well make up our minds to stay on the rocks with the others, for we shall not be able to get home again."

"Do not let us meet trouble half-way, father; the sailors will be able to help us."

They pulled hard a little longer, and then contrived to reach the rock on which the sufferers were waiting.

"Pray, take care, Grace."

"All right, father. Do not be afraid. I will not risk all by my mismanagement."

"If the coble is beaten against the rocks, she will be smashed to pieces."

"I will take care, father. Cannot you land now? See, there is a chance. Now, father!"

With a tremendous effort, Darling got on the rock, and immediately Grace rowed the boat back so as to keep her afloat on the water, and free of the dangerous reefs.

Section A: Reading

Answer all questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

0 1 Read again the first part of Source A, from lines 1 to 12.

Choose four statements below which are true.

- Shade the circles inside the boxes beside the statements you think are true.
- Select a maximum of four statements.
- Cross out the whole box if you make a mistake.
- To restore a statement you crossed out, draw a circle around that box.

[4 marks]

A. Every RNLI crew member is paid to go on rescues. ⬭

B. RNLI crews may be called out at any hour. ⬭

C. Training takes place only on the water. ⬭

D. Shore crew help to launch and recover the lifeboat. ⬭

E. The crew are paged before any decision to launch is made. ⬭

F. Crew members train regularly on land as well as on the water. ⬭

G. Shore crew have no role in preparing for a later call. ⬭

H. A pager may sound while a crew member is asleep. ⬭

0 2 You need to refer to Source A and Source B for this question.

Both texts describe people setting out to save lives at sea.

What can you infer about the differences in the support available to the rescuers?

[8 marks]

0 3 You now need to refer only to Source A, from lines 27 to 32.

How does the writer use language to show that unseen preparation is essential to a rescue?

[12 marks]

0 4 For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A, together with the whole of Source B.

Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives about heroism.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different feelings and perspectives
- comment on the methods the writers use to convey their feelings and perspectives
- support your response with references to both texts.

[16 marks]

Question 04 continued

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0 5 "When someone achieves something remarkable, we focus too much on one hero and forget the team behind them."

Write an article for your school or college website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

{'contentAndOrganisation': 24, 'technicalAccuracy': 16}

[40 marks]

Question 05

Question 05 continued

Exam Stash, Lifeboat rescues (2026).

Eva Hope, Grace Darling, Heroine of the Farne Islands (1875).