ORIGINAL PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Eduqas-style Component 2 - Childhood spaces

GCSE English Language | C700U20 · 19th- and 21st-century non-fiction

Standard time: 2h | With approved 25% extra time: 2h 30m

Total: 80 marks. Write answers on separate paper.

Original Exam Stash practice, independently written. Not an official paper and not endorsed by AQA, Eduqas or OCR. Read the linked original source booklet alongside these questions. The source text is not reproduced here. Use the printed source line numbers, not the PDF viewer line count.

Shorter-source practice: this uses a shorter reading selection than a full examination would normally use. Question skills, marks and suggested timing follow the named board, but this is not a full specification-equivalent mock. Do not apply past grade boundaries to this practice paper. The OCR pair is shorter than the roughly 900–1200 words normally used in Eduqas Component 2. Suggested timing: 10 minutes reading, 50 minutes Section A, 30 minutes for each writing task.

Source booklet - open before starting

Source A: This Boy — Alan Johnson (2013)

OCR June 2022 J351/01 Insert, PDF page 5, Text 2, lines 1–28. Called the Johnson text in this practice set.

Open the original source booklet

21st-century memoir describing a 1950s childhood. The publication date, rather than the events described, determines the text century. Linked source only; not republished.

Source B: Walks in and around London — Uncle Jonathan (1884)

Same booklet, PDF page 4, Text 1, lines 1–30. Called the Uncle Jonathan text in this practice set.

Open the original source booklet

19th-century non-fiction. Both selections are present in the freely accessible OCR PDF checked 15 November 2026.

Instructions

Answer all Section A questions. Write responses on separate paper. Read the source booklet before starting; its original board instructions and timing do not apply to this practice set. Use the standard time unless a different arrangement has been agreed. The 25% figure is a practice planning aid for pupils with approved extra time.

Question A1 | 3 marks

Read Johnson, lines 1–9. (a) Where did he like to play away from school? (b) Name one outdoor activity Linda enjoyed. (c) Give one reason Lily wanted him off the streets.

Question A2 | 10 marks

Read the whole Johnson text. How does Johnson make the reader understand why staying indoors appealed to him?

Question A3 | 3 marks

Read Uncle Jonathan, lines 14–27. Give three distinct ways children use the new playground.

Question A4 | 10 marks

Read the whole Uncle Jonathan text. How convincingly does the writer show that creating the playground has improved children’s lives? Support your evaluation with evidence.

Question A5 | 4 marks

Use both texts. Identify two ways adults influence whether children can feel safe or happy. For each way, give supporting evidence from BOTH texts.

Question A6 | 10 marks

Compare the writers’ attitudes towards outdoor spaces for children, and how they convey those attitudes. Refer to both texts.

Question B1 | 20 marks

Section B — allow about 30 minutes. Your local council is deciding how to use an empty building. Write a letter proposing a place for young people and explaining what it should offer. Make your ideas persuasive and practical. You do not need to use information from the reading texts.

Question B2 | 20 marks

Section B — allow about 30 minutes. Write a lively article for your school or college website reviewing a place where young people can spend their free time. Explain what works well and what could be improved. It may be a real or imagined place.