

GCSE English Language Unit 2

Reading and Writing:

Description, Narration and Exposition

Parents and Children

Resource Material

TEXT A is a letter from a Headteacher to parents.

Dear Parent / Carer,

As a new school year begins, we would like to remind all parents/carers of the importance of school attendance. Schools are being asked to make a concerted effort to raise pupil awareness of the impact that absences from school can have on their attainment and I would ask that parents/carers support us in our drive to further improve the school's attendance performance.

I have attached a table and chart illustrating the relationship between attendance and achievement at school, a copy of which is also on our web site.

The rewards for good attendance are clear: pupils are more likely to enjoy school, achieve their potential and be better prepared for adult life.

We will be updating you about your child's attendance throughout the year and we ask for your continued support in encouraging your child to attend school every day.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Elaine Stickler

Headteacher

TEXT B is taken from a novel by Tony Parsons called 'Man and Boy'. It charts the experiences of Harry, a father trying his best to bring up his four-year-old son, Pat, alone.

Pat started school.

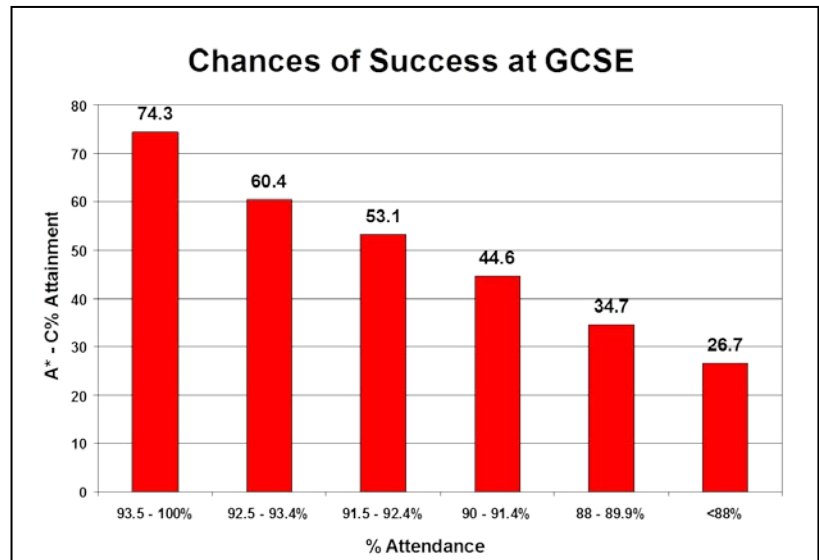
The uniform he had to wear should have made him look grown up. The grey V-necked sweater, the white shirt and the yellow tie should have made him look like a little man. But they didn't.

The formality of his school clothes only underlined the shocking newness of him. Approaching his fifth birthday, he wasn't even young yet. He was still brand new...

And now I had to let my beautiful boy go out into the world. At least until 3.30. For both of us, it felt like a lifetime.

He wasn't smiling now. At breakfast he was pale and silent in his pastiche of adult's clothing, struggling to stop his chin trembling and his bottom lip sticking out, while over the Coco Pops I kept up a running commentary about the best days of your life...

Then it was time to go.



As we drove closer to the school I was seized by a moment of panic. There were children everywhere, swarms of them all in exactly the same clothes as Pat, all heading in the same direction as us. I could lose him in here. I could lose him forever.

I took Pat's clammy hand and we joined the throng. We were just going through the gates to join them when I noticed the lace of Pat's brand new black leather shoes was undone.

'Let me get your lace for you, Pat, I said, kneeling down to tie it.

Two bigger boys rolled past, arm in arm. They leered at us. Pat smiled at them shyly.

'He can't even do his shoes up,' one of them snorted.

'No,' Pat said, 'but I can tell the time.'

They collapsed in guffaws of laughter, holding each other up for support, and reeled away repeating what Pat had said with disbelief.

It was time to leave him. Although there had been a few emotional goodbyes before he dropped out of nursery school, this time felt a bit different. This time it felt as though I were being left.

He was starting school, and by the time he left school he would be a man and I would be middle-aged. Those long days of watching Star Wars videos at home while life went on somewhere else were over. Those days had seemed empty and frustrating at time, but I missed them already. My baby was joining the world.

TEXT C is an extract from Laurie Lee's autobiography, *'Cider With Rosie'*, written about his childhood in the 1920s.

The morning came, without any warning, when my sisters surrounded me, wrapped me in scarves, tied up my bootlaces, thrust a cap on my head, and stuffed a baked potato in my pocket.

'What's this?' I said.

'You're starting school today.'

'I ain't. I'm stopping 'ome.'

'Now come on Loll. You're a big boy now.'

'I ain't.'

'You are.'

'Boo-hoo.'

They picked me up bodily, kicking and bawling, and carried me up to the road.

The playground roared like a rodeo, and the potato burned through my thigh. Old boots, ragged stockings, torn trousers and skirts went skating and skidding around me. The rabble closed in; I was encircled; grit flew in my face like shrapnel. Tall girls with frizzled hair, and huge boys with sharp elbows, began to prod me with hideous interest. They plucked at my scarves, spun me round like a top, screwed my nose, and stole my potato.

TEXT D is a news article.

Child obesity: Why do parents let their kids get fat?

By Denise Winterman BBC News Magazine

The health risks for obese children may be even greater than previously estimated, new research suggests. So why do parents let their children get fat?

Obesity experts say parents are struggling with a multitude of problems when it comes to their child's weight. They range from a lack of education about food, limited cooking skills and limited money to buy healthier food to longer working hours and marketing campaigns for junk food aimed at kids.

But the more sedentary lives children now lead is also creating huge problems. Last week a study suggested that up to 75% of junior school children preferred to stay at home than go to their nearby park.

While the problems parents face might be increasing so is evidence about the dangers of obesity. So why do they let their children get so fat?

Katy's son weighed over 23 stone (147kg) by the age of 15. She knew the reason - he ate too much and did too little exercise.

"A lot of his eating habits were out of my control," says the mother-of-two from Buckinghamshire. "He would eat too much when he was at school and then come home and eat whatever was around, even cook big meals for himself.

Some parents know they are a bigger part of the problem. Tracey says she allowed her daughter to pick up her own bad eating habits. Admitting to having a "complicated relationship" with food herself, she says she used it to bond with her daughter.

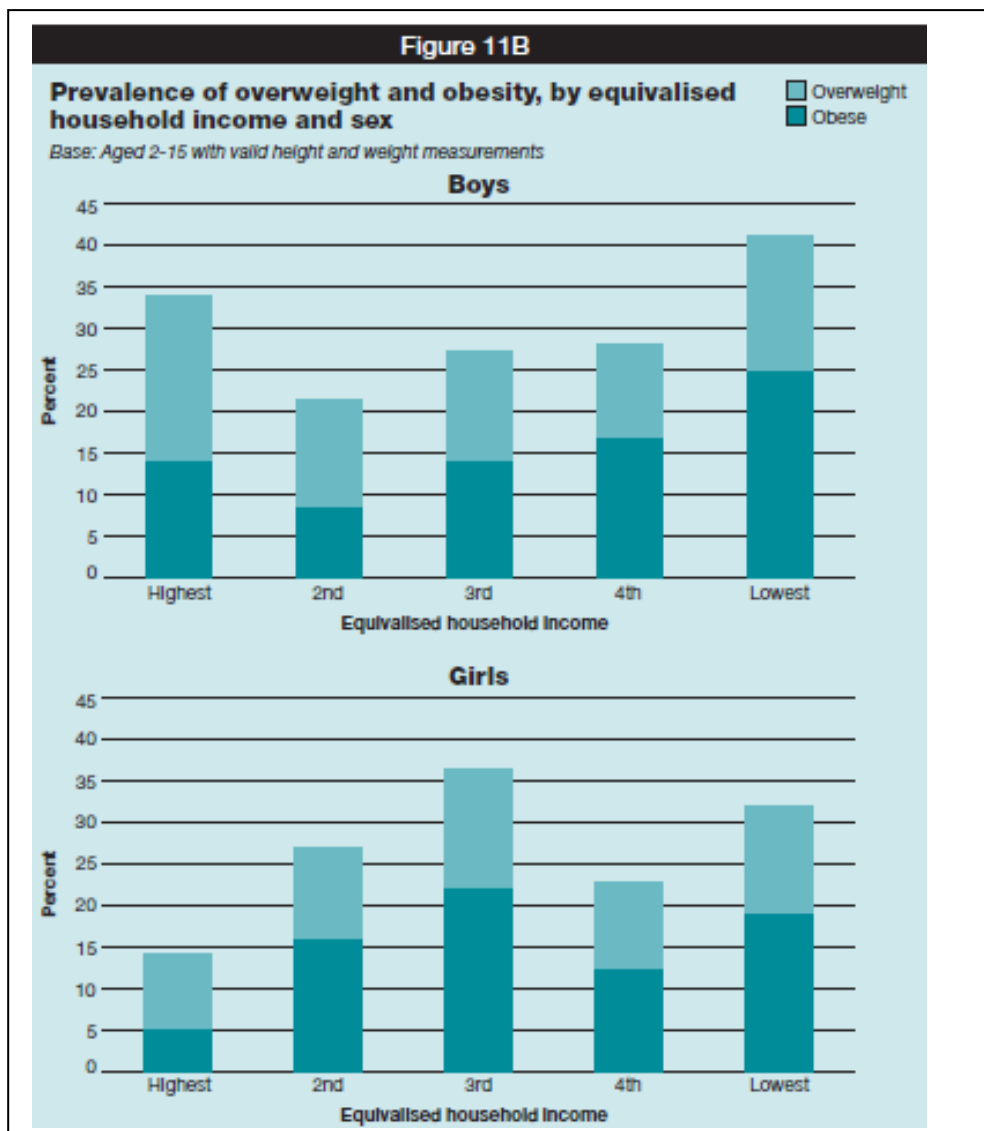
"We would snack together in the evening while watching television and treat ourselves with sweets and puddings. It was like our special time together," says the mother-of-one from Shrewsbury.

"I could see she was carrying a few extra pounds but she seemed happy. I didn't want to mention it because I didn't want her to feel negative about herself.

The daily emotional battle around food can also be fraught between a parent and a child.

From a very early age children are very good at using a "whole set of behaviours" to get what they want, say experts. It's easy to judge but nearly every parent in the land has caved in to some sort of emotion blackmail from their child. It just might not be about food.

TEXT E is a graph.



Question Paper

SECTION A (Reading): 40 marks

In the **separate Resource Material** there are five texts on the theme of 'Parents and Children' labelled **Text A-E**. Read each text carefully and answer **all** the questions below that relate to each of the texts.

Text A

1. Find and copy one thing that is a reward for good attendance. [1]
2. Which of the following statements is implied by the text? [1]
 - a) Children who have good attendance are less likely to enjoy school.
 - b) The school is supporting parents / carers to improve their child's attendance.
 - c) Children are better prepared for adult life if they have good attendance.
 - d) Pupils are aware of the impact of absences from school has.
3. According to the bar chart, what would be your percentage for succeeding in achieving grades A*-C if your attendance was 92.6%? [1]
4. According to the bar chart, what would your attendance be between if your percentage for succeeding in achieving grades A*-C was 44.6%? [1]
5. Explain the relationship between attendance and achievement. [1]
6. What is the purpose of this text? [1]
 - a) Personal
 - b) Public
 - c) Educational
 - d) Occupational

Text B

7. How does the writer show what Harry thinks and feels about Pat's first day at school? [10]
Refer to the writer's language and the techniques he uses.

Texts B and C

8. Compare the two children's first day at school. [5]

Text D

9. What does "sedentary lives" mean in the text? [1]
 - a) Lives which are sleepy.
 - b) Lives which are mostly seated.
 - c) Lives which are sometimes sludgy.
 - d) Lives which are often troublesome.
10. Explain the reasons for children becoming overweight, according to the article. [10]

Text E

11. Explain the relationship between household income and obesity in boys and girls. [3]

Editing (5 marks)

In this part of the paper you will be assessed for the quality of your understanding and editing skills.

1. Read the paragraph below and then answer the questions that follow:

Mary loved her children(1)..... anything else. However, why they were quite so(2)..... was a mystery.

(a) Circle the word below that best fits gap (1): [1]

- A) instead
- B) beyond
- C) despite
- D) with

(b) Circle the word below that best fits gap (2): [1]

- A) agreeable
- B) warm
- C) congenial
- D) obnoxious

2. Circle the pair of words that best fit the meaning of the sentence below: [1]

His father had for the second time since Sunday although it was that he would leave again before the week was out.

- (A) arrive ... impossible
- (B) left ... probable
- (C) visited ... possible
- (D) return ... likely
- (E) gone ... incapable

3. Read the text below and show your understanding by answering the questions that follow:

- 1) It was unseasonable weather for October.
- 2) The excitement built as they filed in with the crowds.
- 3) Eventually a steward showed them where they should be.
- 4) Finding their seats in the stadium was proving difficult.
- 5) Even so, that cold Saturday, Robert had taken his son to his first international.

(a) Which sentence should come second in the paragraph? Write the number. [1]

(b) Which sentence should come last in the paragraph? Write the number. [1]

SECTION B (Writing): 40 marks

B1. *In this task you will be assessed for the quality of your proofreading.*

Read the email below from a parent asking for the permission from the Headteacher of your school to allow a pupil to go on holiday in term time.

Identify the five errors and correct them on the email below.

[5]

Dear Headteacher,

I am emailing as I know that the school has a policy not to let children out of school during term time but I have booked a holiday for september for my son, George Jones 10Y, to visit his family in Australia.

Georges attendance in school is always very good. He only missed two days last year. It is important for us as a family to make this trip as it is my mother's 70th birthday and she haven't seen George since he were 3 years old.

Yours sinserly,

Jackie Jones

B2. *In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your **writing** skills.*

20 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 15 marks are awarded for writing accurately.

You should aim to write about 350-500 words.

Choose **one** of the following for your writing:

[35]

Either,

a) Write an account of your first day at school.

Or,

(b) Write a brief article for an online parenting magazine describing what it is like to be a teenager in the twenty-first century.

The space below can be used to plan your work.