

GCSE English Language Unit 3

Reading and Writing:

Argumentation, Persuasion and

Instructional

Noise

Resource Material

Unit 3 - Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional

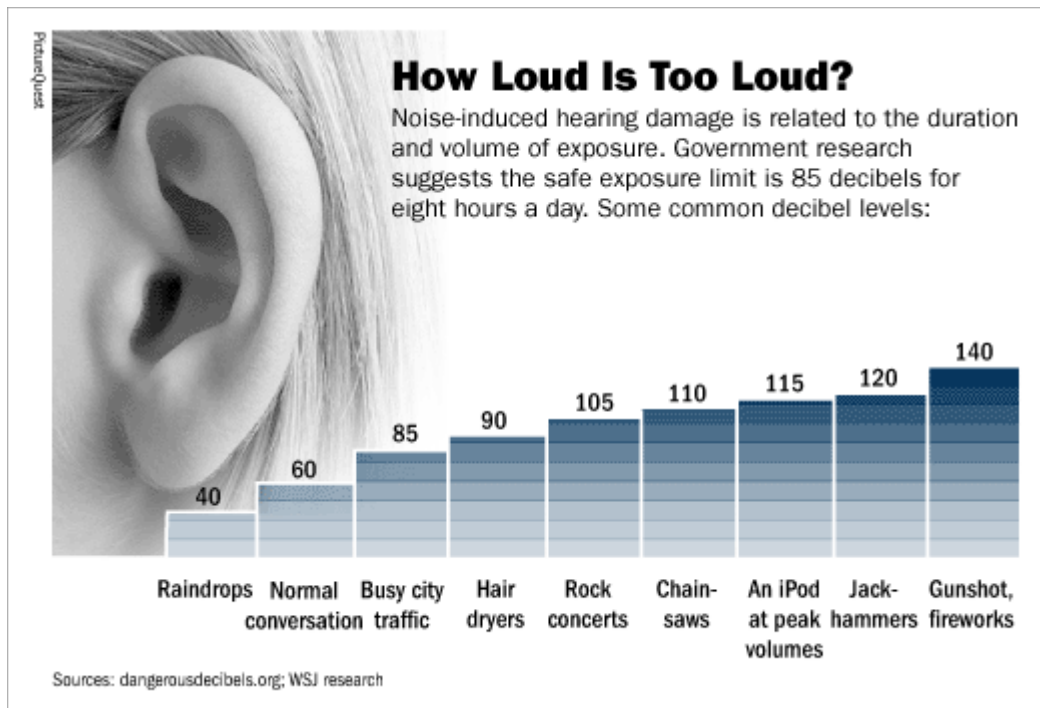
TEXT A gives a definition of noise

Noise can be defined in a number of different ways but essentially noise means any unwanted sound. Sounds, particularly loud ones, which disturb people or make it difficult to hear wanted sounds, are noise. For example, conversations of other people may be called noise by people not involved in any of them; any unwanted sound such as dogs barking, neighbours playing loud music, or a distant aircraft in quiet countryside, is called noise.

Noise is measured in decibels and can be anything from quiet but annoying to loud and harmful. At one extreme users of public transport sometimes complain about the faint and tinny sounds emanating from the headphones or earbuds of somebody listening to a portable music player; at the other the sound of very loud music or a jet engine at close quarters, can cause permanent irreversible hearing damage. This "intolerable corruption of human space" can be called noise pollution.

Wikipedia

Text B shows information about different levels of noise



<http://www.bing.com/images/search?q=reducing+noise+damage+at+work&FORM=HDRSC2#view=detail&id=0B46550F3C254A4D56D5DC12213D27424227F552&selectedIndex=9>

Text C is a series of instructions for employees who have an issue with noise at work

If you feel that the noise levels at your work are a cause for concern you should:

- Ensure you follow regulations and use protective equipment provided by your company.
- Read the company regulations that give you further advice on what to do if you have a concern.
- Take formal action. Write to your union representative and the management at your company to inform them of your concerns and ask them to take appropriate action.
- If the problems persists, speak to your line manager or health and safety officer. Tell them about your concern and make sure they document your conversation.

Text D has been taken from a report about hearing issues.

Teenage hearing loss has increased by 30% since 2004 and by 2020 it is estimated that this will have increased by a further 10%. It is estimated that today's teenager could become deaf almost 30 years earlier than their parents. But what has caused this huge increase?

Deafness Research UK is concerned that many young people play their MP3 players too loudly and that this is causing their hearing to be damaged. They accept that music is a huge part of modern life but feel that hearing problems are increasing at an alarming rate. The 'earbud' design of earphones, which are inserted into the ear rather than just sitting on top of the pinna (the fleshy part of the ear) are also dangerous because they force the sound directly towards the eardrum.

Not only is the volume too loud for most young people but up to 1 in 3 young people don't understand that the volume of their music can cause problems. Schools and parents must educate young people on these dangers and, if necessary, remove the noise source. Some parents, according to the report, are simply not strict enough and need to take control of their teenager's listening.

Almost 14% of young people surveyed suggested they listen to music for up to 28 hours a week. Lengthy exposure to such noise will undoubtedly increase the risk of a hearing problem.

Text E is an extract from a newspaper article by John Humphrys

I present the Today programme and have become obsessed with noise. The first question strangers ask is always: "What time do you get up?" (Answer: the middle of the night.) The second is: "What time do you go to bed?" (Answer: absurdly early – long before the average 10-year-old.) And the third is: "How do you manage to sleep?"

Which is where noise comes in. Because it depends. If it is quiet, I sleep like a contented baby. If it is noisy, I sleep like a fractious baby with a particularly nasty teething problem. The difference is that if I am kept awake, I do not scream for attention but lie still, cursing all those selfish souls who think it acceptable to walk past my house at nine in the evening without lowering their voices to a whisper.

I happen to be on the extreme end of the spectrum for obvious reasons, but you, dear reader, you may be on it, too. Do you not dread the approach of Christmas with the certain knowledge that every shop you enter will welcome you with canned Christmas carols? Or the hotels who believe you cannot make it through a meal without music in the background? Even at breakfast, for God's sake! Do you not want to take a large hammer to the small jet engine your neighbour insists on using to blow away the tiny handful of leaves that have settled in his front garden, smash it into even tinier pieces and hand him a broom that would do the job in a fraction of the time (and quietly)?

Do you not nod in (silent) agreement at the result of the survey last week that asked office workers what most annoyed them about the behaviour of their colleagues and found that they put eating noisily at the top of the list by a large majority? Do you not applaud the hotel chain that has installed noise meters in its corridors that flash a warning light if people are talking too loudly and offer a refund to guests who failed to get a good night's sleep because of noise? We can even – just – forgive the company for calling them "ssshhh-o-meters".

Text F has been taken from an internet blog

Noisy neighbours: A quiet country life - not quite

A rooster can be as noisy as a lorry, reports Graham Norwood, so what are neighbours to do?

Birdsong and snorting pigs aren't the only things you hear when you wake up in the country; ask anyone with a home near a campsite or a car boot sale. Many of the loudest rural noises come not from incomers but from farmers, or at least from their land. An average British farm is nearly three times the size of one on mainland Europe, so farmers here are increasingly left with spare land, which they let out to support their annual income. Of Britain's 300,000 farms, about 50 per cent have diversified and now increase their income in different ways. A few have opted for noisy enterprises, such as motor biking or helicopter rides. Some farmers diversify with wind turbines. Even horse shows attract hundreds of vehicles and may make neighbours' lives hell. "Most of my cases involve farmers and neighbours arguing over traffic levels or noise from shooting events or music parties held in fields," says Paul Thomas, a voluntary mediator in mid-Wales.

Most disputes can be resolved if you complain directly to your neighbour and come to an agreement that is acceptable to you both. If this fails, keep a diary of problems with dates, photos and witnesses so that you have evidence which you may wish to use later.

When Catherine Parry hosts parties and wedding receptions in a barn on her family's farm, she works hard to get the neighbours onside. Each year she hosts a dozen large gatherings with up to 180 guests, but tries to ensure locals suffer minimal noise. The 15 closest residents are given wine or flowers and alerted well in advance. "We use rugs to insulate the barn, stop live bands at 10pm and make the DJs stop at midnight," Parry explains. "Cars come in and leave via a loop route so they don't pass many houses." The tactics work, says David Werrell, a gamekeeper who lives nearby. "It's all down to communication," he says. "If we know what's happening we change our plans a little that day."

If it has not been possible to settle a dispute between yourselves, professional mediators (usually with legal knowledge or psychology training) charge up to £800 for two days and will try and resolve any issues through negotiation. There are volunteer mediation services which can be used and are often free.

Finally, don't suffer in silence.

Graham Norwood

Question Paper

Unit 3
SECTION A (Reading): 40 marks

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

Text A

1. What does the word 'emanating' mean? [1]
- a) Echoing
 - b) Originating
 - c) Beating
 - d) Whispering

2. Which type of noise, according to Text A, is the most dangerous? [1]
-

3. Which unit is sound measured in? [1]
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Text B

4. Select one type of noise that is safe to listen to for 8 hours. [1]
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5. What is the purpose of this text? [1]
- a) Personal
 - b) Public
 - c) Educational
 - d) Occupational

Text C

6. Look at the instructions on how to deal with dangerous noise at work. Put the instructions in the order that they would be best completed. [3]

The first one has been completed for you:

a. Ensure you follow regulations and use protective equipment provided by your company.

b.

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c.

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d.

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Text D

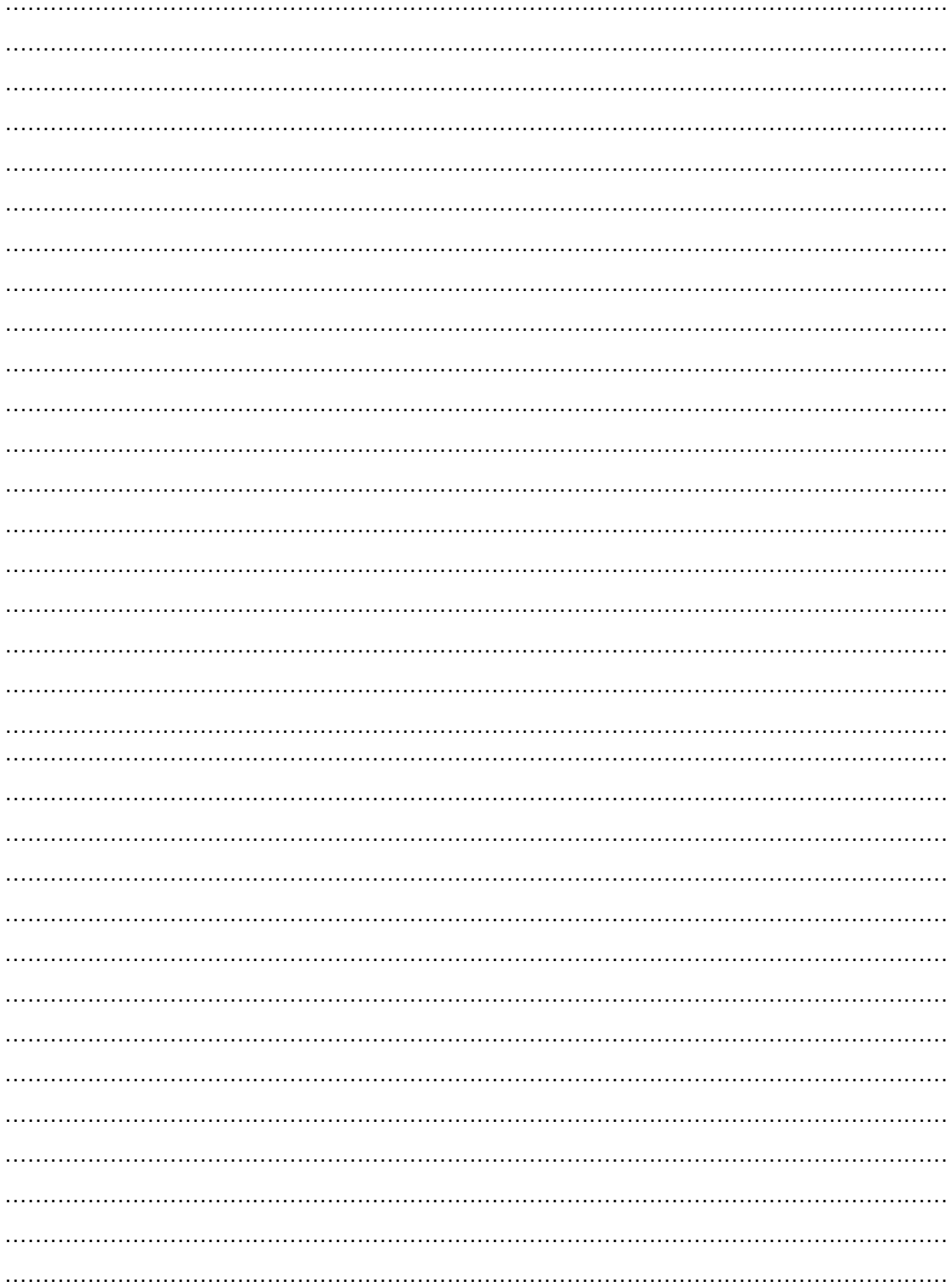
7. Select one fact about hearing damage from the article. [1]

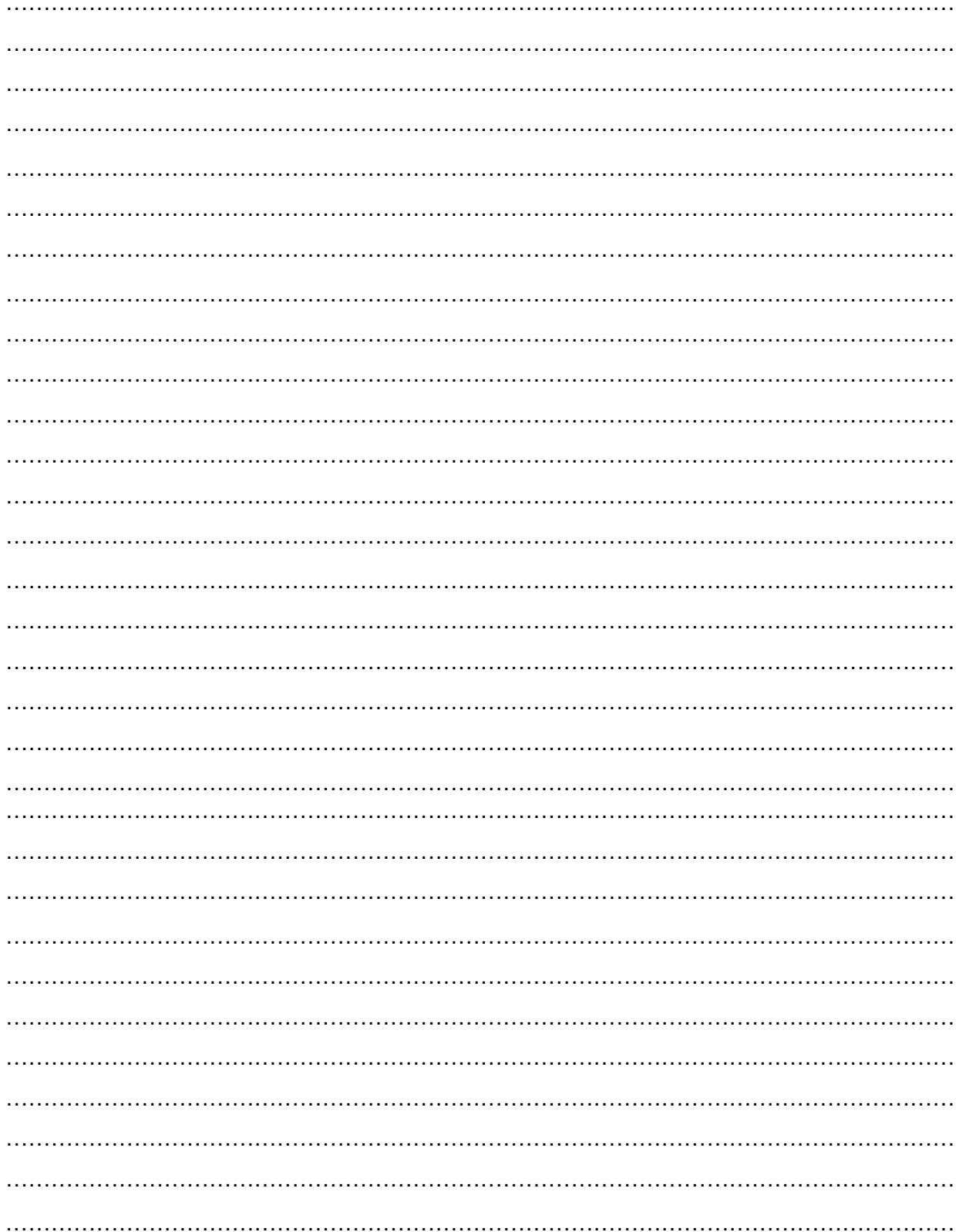
8. What do the words up to mean in “up to 28 hours a week”? [1]

- a. Over 28 hours
- b. Almost 28 hours
- c. 28 hours exactly
- d. 28 hours maximum

9. In your own words, summarise five main reasons why iPods are causing damage to teenagers' hearing. [5]

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LETTER

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