



GCSE

C700U20-1



THURSDAY, 6 JUNE 2024 – MORNING

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Component 2
19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading
and Transactional/Persuasive Writing**

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material for use with Section A.
A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B.

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

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

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

for example

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

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

- Section A – about 10 minutes reading
 - about 50 minutes answering the questions
- Section B – spend 30 minutes on each question
 - about 5 minutes planning
 - about 25 minutes writing

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 marks

Answer **all** the following questions.

The **separate Resource Material for use with Section A** is a newspaper article, 'Jersey woman becomes the first person to swim the English Channel across six decades'.

The extract on the opposite page is an account of Captain Matthew Webb's attempt to swim the English Channel in 1875.

Read the newspaper article in the separate Resource Material.

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|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 1 | a) How long did Sally Minty-Gravett's eighth Channel swim take? | [1] |
| | | b) Who told Sally that she should attempt to swim the Channel? | [1] |
| | | c) Name one activity that Sally thinks she might like to learn to do after retiring from swimming. | [1] |

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|------|
| 1 | 2 | How does the writer try to show that Sally Minty-Gravett loves sea and Channel swimming? | [10] |
|---|---|--|------|

You should comment on:

- what readers are told about Sally Minty-Gravett's sea and Channel swimming
- the use of language, tone and structure

You must refer to the text to support your comments, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.

To answer the following questions read the account on the opposite page of Captain Matthew Webb's attempt to swim the English Channel.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----|
| 1 | 3 | a) What is Captain Webb compared to when he begins his swim? | [1] |
| | | b) How long did Captain Webb think his Channel swim would take? | [1] |
| | | c) What could be heard as Captain Webb came close to completing his swim? | [1] |

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|---|---|---|--|
| 1 | 4 | "We are never sure that Captain Webb's attempt to swim the English Channel will be successful, until the very end of Arthur Payne's account." | |
|---|---|---|--|

To what extent do you agree with this view?

You should comment on:

- what the writer says
- how the writer says it.

[10]

You must refer to the text to support your comments.

To answer the following questions you must use both texts.

- | | | | |
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| 1 | 5 | Using information from both texts, explain briefly the weather conditions faced by Captain Webb and Sally Minty-Gravett on their Channel swims. | [4] |
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- You should make it clear which text you are referring to.

- | | | | |
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| 1 | 6 | Both of these texts are about swimmers who have successfully swum the English Channel. | |
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Compare:

- what makes Sally Minty-Gravett and Captain Webb successful Channel swimmers
- how the writers show what makes them successful Channel swimmers. [10]

You must use the text to support your answers and make it clear which text you are referring to.

In 1875, Captain Matthew Webb attempted to swim the English Channel. This account of the swim was written by Arthur Payne, who was in the support boat.

Our support boat was got ready and at one o'clock our brave Captain Webb, committed to becoming the first person to swim the English Channel and well smothered in thick grease for warmth, dived in from the end of the Admiralty Pier. As he swam away, his broad shoulders shooting through the water and gleaming in the sunshine, he very much resembled some large seal or huge fish, not merely in smell but in appearance, and swimming strongly with a stroke of twenty-two to the minute.

By 3pm quantities of dolphins were now swimming around us. Some in our boat thought these creatures may have been attracted by the smell of the grease with which Webb had covered himself. Soon after 7pm the sun set and all this time Webb continued with the same steady stroke. He rarely spoke, evidently determined to do or die. It began to grow dark and by 10pm he had been in the water nine hours when he suddenly cried out, "I am stung." It startled all of us and we felt this might be the signal for giving up the attempt. Fortunately, however, a jelly-fish had only touched his shoulder and in a few minutes he reported himself as feeling all right.

In the early morning mist the chalk cliffs near Cape Gris-Nez in France were visible but Webb now showed evident symptoms of fatigue; he appeared very anxious as he knew the tide would shortly turn, carrying him away from the French coast. He was now only swimming sixteen strokes to the minute, and appeared to labour very much. Webb had thought he would complete the swim in about fourteen hours but he had already been in the water eighteen hours, and the tide had now turned, carrying him every moment further away from the goal he so longed to reach. He began to lose all hope and at that moment there was but one opinion, and that was that he had no chance.

Webb, fearfully exhausted, still toiled on bravely. He could do little more than keep himself up; his hands seemed to drop and his legs were so weak that he could barely bring them together at the end of each stroke. We had, however, now drifted till we were directly off Calais Pier and we could see that at last Webb was drawing slowly into shore. He could not have been more than 200 yards from shore but he was barely keeping afloat after more than twenty-one hours in the sea. It was now or never – twelve strokes a minute, and barely that. Although rain clouds had begun to form, a crowd had gathered on the sands near the pier and cheered till they were hoarse. He was within 100 yards of shore and some men struck up "Rule Britannia". Finally, Webb touched ground in about three feet of water, a triumph of his endurance. He tried to stand up but fell heavily forward. In a second, two men were by his side and each took an arm. They assisted him to shore where he was covered in a blanket and driven off to the Paris Hotel, Calais.

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question

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 and Question

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| 2 | 2 |
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In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your writing skills.

For each question, 12 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 8 marks are awarded for vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.

Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.

You should aim to write about 300–400 words for each task.

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 You are asked to give a talk to your class with the title:

‘Toys/Games of my childhood’

Write what you would say in your talk.

[20]

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| 2 | 2 |
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Write a lively article for your school/college magazine with the heading:

The Ultimate Teenagers’ Guide to Keeping Fit and Healthy

[20]

The space below can be used to plan your work.

END OF PAPER



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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE – Component 2
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RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR USE WITH SECTION A

JERSEY WOMAN BECOMES THE FIRST PERSON TO SWIM THE ENGLISH CHANNEL ACROSS SIX DECADES

Meet Sally Minty-Gravett MBE – Sally is one of Jersey’s best known swimming coaches, eight-time cross-Channel swimmer and multiple record holder – the sea really is in her heart and soul! – by Lucy Griffiths.

Earlier this month, Jersey long-distance swimmer Sally Minty-Gravett swam her eighth solo English Channel crossing over six consecutive decades, setting a new world record. The 65-year-old completed the 21-mile swim in 15 hours and 30 minutes.



Sea swimming has always been a huge part of Sally’s life. “I realised very early on that sea swimming was more than just a hobby, it was my passion,” she said. “When I was growing up there were no swimming pools in Jersey so I was always in the sea. Even when I first tried swimming in a pool, I knew I preferred the open water – out in the sea it’s just you and the elements. It’s invigorating, even in the winter. It’s exhilarating when you come out of the water; even if it’s freezing cold, the tingle you get when you come out is lovely. I live for it.”

By four years old, Sally had learnt to swim in the sea and by the time she was 10, she was already a fiercely competitive swimmer, already determined to be a winner. At 14 she was pursuing longer swims, first around the island, then part of a Channel relay team. “I absolutely fell in love with being in the sea. I never got cold. For me, it was just the natural place to be.”

In 1974, when she signed up to swim the length of Lake Windermere in a race and came second, her swimming coach told her that if she could do that, she should attempt to swim the Channel. She went home, trained hard to build up her endurance and first swam the Channel in 1975, aged 18, exactly 100 years since the first-ever successful Channel swim made by Captain Matthew Webb. She always had the self-belief that she could complete the swim.

“That first crossing was completely in thick fog,” said Sally, “I could barely see anything; I only saw France when I was 3ft from the sand. Arriving on that stretch of beach after 11 hours and 56 minutes in the water was such a huge sense of achievement. It was like no other feeling I’d ever experienced.”

She went on to swim the Channel in every decade – in 1985 aged 28, 1992 aged 35, 2005 aged 48, 2013 aged 56, where she completed the swim to France in a storm, and then her amazing 42-mile two-way Channel swim in 2016, the same year she was awarded an MBE for her services to swimming.

She said, “People always ask how I find the mental and physical strength for each Channel swim, but for me it’s not hard. I swim all the time so I don’t find that tough; I meditate, sing songs in my head or think about my technique. Being in the water is where I’m happiest.”

Sally had planned her sixth decade Channel crossing swim this year as her ‘retirement swim’. “From start to finish, it was just the perfect day,” she told me. When Sally started her swim at 5.13am there was just a light breeze and she finished in daylight. “Traditionally there are always lovely French people that meet Channel swimmers at the end of their swim and sure enough as I swam in, there they were with some champagne for me on the slipway.”

Even though Sally said it was her retirement swim, she did not rule out another Channel crossing. “This was my retirement swim but if in 10 years I’m still fit then maybe I’ll consider another one,” she said. “With no more big swims ahead I can focus on learning new things I’ve always wanted to, such as surfing and sailing. Plus, if I miss long distance swimming too much, I can always dive right back in. It’s never too late to do something you love.”

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