



ENGLISH A2 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1
ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1
INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1

Thursday 8 November 2001 (afternoon)
Jeudi 8 novembre 2001 (après-midi)
Jueves 8 de noviembre de 2001 (tarde)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Section B consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Choose either Section A or Section B. Write one comparative commentary.

INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- Ne pas ouvrir cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé.
- La section A comporte deux passages à commenter.
- La section B comporte deux passages à commenter.
- Choisissez soit la section A soit la section B. Écrire un commentaire comparatif.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- En la Sección A hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- En la Sección B hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- Elija la Sección A o la Sección B. Escriba un comentario comparativo.

Choose either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images, and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 1 (a)

When I Grow Old

I've had so much of houses and of 'things',
So much of furniture, so much of stuff.
When I grow old, some cozy cubby-hole¹,
A three-room cottage, will be big enough.

5 I've had so much of living in the world,
So many busy days and people I have known.
I feel the need of wisdom and of peace—
When I grow old I'd like to be alone.

10 But I must have green grass and gayest flowers,
With trees before my door, for rest and shade.
For I'll need Beauty when the time grows short.
Surrounded thus, I shall not be afraid.

15 I want to pass the evening of my days
Calmed by a sunny garden's tranquil hours,
After a hurried life, how sweet to stroll!
To grow old gracefully, among the flowers!

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings (1926).

¹ cubby-hole: a very small room

Text 1 (b)

Seventy-year-olds, or septuagets, have the illusion of being middle-aged. The eighty-year-old, the octogenarian, looks at the double-dumpling figure and admits that he is old. The last act has begun, and it will be the test of the play.

5 To enter the country of age is a new experience, different from what you supposed it to be. Nobody, man or woman, knows the country until he has lived in it and has taken out his citizenship papers. Here is my report, submitted as a road map and guide to some of the principal monuments.

The new octogenarian feels as strongly as ever when he is sitting in a comfortable chair. He ruminates¹, he dreams, he remembers. He doesn't want to be disturbed by others. It seems to him that old age is only a costume assumed for those others; the true, the essential self is ageless. In a moment, he will rise and go for a ramble in the woods, taking a gun along, or a fishing rod, if it is spring. Then he creaks to his feet, bending forward to keep his balance, and realises that he will do nothing of the sort. The body and its surroundings have their messages for him, or only one message: "You are old." Here are some of the occasions
15 on which he receives the message:

- when it becomes an achievement to do thoughtfully, step by step, what he once did instinctively
- when his bones ache
- when he fumbles and drops his toothbrush
- 20 • when year by year his feet seem farther from his hands
- when he falls asleep in the afternoon
- when it becomes harder to bear in mind two things at once.

These are some of the intimate messages. "Put cotton in your ears and pebbles in your shoes," says a gerontologist². "Pull on rubber gloves. Smear Vaseline³ over your glasses, and there you have it: instant ageing." Not quite. His formula omits the messages from the
25 social world, which are louder, in most cases, than those within. We start by growing old in other people's eyes, then slowly we come to share their judgement.

adapted from Malcolm Cowley's essay *The View from 80* (1976).

¹ ruminates: thinks carefully, meditates

² gerontologist: scientist who studies ageing

³ Vaseline: a translucent jelly used as a lubricant or ointment

SECTION B

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images, and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 2 (a)

Looking down the long line of coast this morning as I begin these lectures, I see the first rays of the sun strike Mount Warning and am aware, as the light floods west, what a distance it is to the far side of our country – two time zones and more than three thousand kilometres, yet how easily the whole landmass sits in my head – as an island or, as I sometimes think of it,
5 a raft we have all scrambled aboard, a new float of lives in busy interactions, of assembly lines and highways, of ideals given body as executives and courts, of routine housekeeping arrangements and objects in passage from hand to hand. To comprehend the thing in all its action and variety is a task for the imagination, yet this morning as always, it is simply there, substantial and ordinary.

10 When Europeans first came to these shores one of the things they brought with them, as a kind of gift to the land itself, was something that could never have existed before: a vision of the continent in its true form as an island that was not just a way of seeing it, and seeing it whole, but of seeing how it fitted into the rest of the world. No group of Aboriginal Australians, however ancient and deep their understanding of the land, can ever have seen the place in just
15 this way. It has made a difference. If Aborigines are a land-dreaming people, what we latecomers share is a sea-dreaming, to which the image of Australia as an island has from the beginning been central.

Most nations establish themselves through a long series of border conflicts with neighbours. This is often the major thrust of their history. Think of the various wars between Germany
20 and France, or Russia and Poland, or of British history.

Australia's borders were a gift of nature. We did not have to fight for them. In our case, history and geography coincided, and we soon hit upon the idea that the single continent must one day be a single nation.

from a lecture by the writer David Malouf given on Australian national radio (1998).

Text 2 (b)

THIS IS AUSTRALIA

Australian Vibrations...

As you come down for landing, even the air seems to change.

You are Down Under!

And though it looks familiar...**you know it is different.**

5 You can take a taxi like anywhere else. The taxi driver probably comes from anywhere else. You see glass towers. European boulevards and outdoor cafes, the glitz and grunge of a big pulsing city. You see all-night pubs and discos. Big Macs. The planes and trains run on time...much as they do in the Old World...

And yet...it IS different.

Is it the call of the warm outdoors? Even for city people.

10 Most Australians live in coastal cities with sublime climate, barbecues in warm gardens, great beaches and mountains within easy reach. A curling wave before work, a weekend in the hills, a picnic in the rainforests. Is this what makes them different? Their lazy drawl, their sportiness, their endless fund of jokes, their easy friendliness, their resistance to stress: 'no worries mate'...

15 And yet you feel a pulse that is more than that...

You feel a vigour and the promise of a New World in the making...

It's as if the wilderness is breathing out fresh air. It's as if the frontiers deep in the outback desert are still calling for exploration...for a future.

adapted from the *Orbit Travel Guide for the Young* website (2000).