



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

Monday 12 May 2008 (morning)
Lundi 12 mai 2008 (matin)
Lunes 12 de mayo de 2008 (mañana)

1 h 30 m

TEXT BOOKLET – INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this booklet until instructed to do so.
- This booklet contains all of the texts required for Paper 1.
- Answer the questions in the Question and Answer Booklet provided.

LIVRET DE TEXTES – INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- N'ouvrez pas ce livret avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Ce livret contient tous les textes nécessaires à l'épreuve 1.
- Répondez à toutes les questions dans le livret de questions et réponses fourni.

CUADERNO DE TEXTOS – INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra este cuaderno hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Este cuaderno contiene todos los textos para la Prueba 1.
- Conteste todas las preguntas en el cuaderno de preguntas y respuestas.

TEXT A

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Rob Creek, Edinburgh

"The course gave me valuable insight into the workings of the magazine industry. Now, I have a monthly column in four magazines. Hopefully, next year I'll publish my first book."

Maria Wilson, Dublin

Course Features:

- 30 modules
- 20 written assignments
- Tutorial support
- No time limit
- 14 day trial period

TEXT B

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TEXT C

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TEXT D

REALITY TV

Reality television observes people's emotions and behaviours in live, real-life situations. Although the genre has existed since the early years of television, the term "reality television" is most commonly used to describe programmes produced since 2000. Examples of reality TV are game shows and observation-focused programmes such as Big Brother.



Reality TV features ordinary people instead of highly-paid professional actors. This means that everyday people with special talents have an opportunity to show off these abilities. As a result, several American Idol alumni (not necessarily the winners) now have recording contracts. Skeptics note, however, that producers specifically select people and use carefully designed scenarios that encourage particular behaviours. Some participants have revealed afterwards that they changed their behaviour to appear crazier or more emotional to get more camera time. Like it or not, however, reality television has the potential to turn its participants into national celebrities, often allowing them to make their dreams come true.

Critics say that the term "reality television" is misleading as the shows frequently portray unrealistic situations, with participants put in exotic locations or abnormal situations, sometimes coached to act in certain ways, and with events manipulated through editing and production techniques.

Reality television's appeal is due to its ability to place ordinary people in extraordinary situations. For example, on *The Bachelor*, an eligible male simultaneously dates a dozen women, taking them to beautiful places for wonderful dates. Relationship expert, Dr. Joan Smith, points out that shows like this focus on a small percentage of the population—namely the young and attractive. It is rare to see normal-looking contestants succeed on these shows and this sends the wrong message.

A positive aspect of reality TV is certain shows can introduce people to worlds and cultures they know little about. An excellent example of this is one of the longest-running reality TV shows of all time, *COPS*. This show portrays the daily routine of law enforcement professionals.

Self-improvement and makeover shows are another type of reality television. Shows like *Celebrity Fit Club* feature people improving their lives. Despite differences in the content, the format is usually the same: first subjects are introduced in their current, less-than-ideal-state. Then they meet experts, who give them instructions on how to improve.

Media specialist, Joe Darwin, points out a number of negative aspects to reality TV. One of the most serious is the focus on negativity, particularly on shows where participants are removed through voting. More often than not, normally-behaved participants are the ones that get eliminated first which sends the message that weird and controversial is best. However, from a political standpoint, reality TV is viewed positively as it represents the first time many people have voted in any free and fair election.