

# Component 2, Section A: 19th- and 21st-century non-fiction reading

Component 2, Section A has six questions about two texts on a linked subject, totalling about 900–1200 words. One will be from the nineteenth century and one from the twenty-first century. They will be non-fiction texts, so they could include articles, extracts from biographies or autobiographies, diaries, letters or reports. There are 40 marks available.

## What exactly must I do?

You have about an hour to complete this section. Spend around 10 minutes reading the texts and the questions carefully, then 50 minutes answering the questions. It is a good idea to read both texts at the beginning of the exam. The questions will be as follows:

Q A1	3 marks	This question will be based on the first text and divided into small parts, such as a, b and c. You will have to find a detail in the text for each part.
Q A2	10 marks	This is a language and technique question on the first text. You will be asked how the writer uses language and techniques for a particular purpose, such as to convey a point of view.
Q A3	3 marks	This question will be based on the second text and divided into small parts. You will have to find short details in the text for each.
Q A4	10 marks	This question will be on the second text. You will be asked what you think and feel about a situation in the text, or how successful the writer is in conveying a point of view to you.
Q A5	4 marks	This question will ask you to consider both texts. It is a search and find question where you will find short details and evidence from both texts.
Q A5	10 marks	This questions will ask you to consider both texts again and compare their ideas and attitudes and how they are presented to you.

To answer questions A1 and A3, you need to find short details in the texts. You do not have to use your own words, although you can if you wish.

For the other questions, you will need to use evidence from the texts to support your answer and explain your ideas. It is very important that you make clear which text you are referring to.

As in Component 1, there are no marks for spelling, sentence construction or punctuation in this section, but you should still express yourself clearly.