



**English A: language and literature – Standard level – Paper 1**  
**Anglais A : langue et littérature – Niveau moyen – Épreuve 1**  
**Inglés A: lengua y literatura – Nivel medio – Prueba 1**

Monday 4 May 2015 (morning)  
 Lundi 4 mai 2015 (matin)  
 Lunes 4 de mayo de 2015 (mañana)

1 hour 30 minutes / 1 heure 30 minutes / 1 hora 30 minutos

**Instructions to candidates**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write an analysis on one text only.
- It is not compulsory for you to respond directly to the guiding questions provided. However, you may use them if you wish.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[20 marks]**.

**Instructions destinées aux candidats**

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez une analyse d'un seul texte.
- Vous n'êtes pas obligé(e) de répondre directement aux questions d'orientation fournies.  
Vous pouvez toutefois les utiliser si vous le souhaitez.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[20 points]**.

**Instrucciones para los alumnos**

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis de un solo texto.
- No es obligatorio responder directamente a las preguntas de orientación que se incluyen, pero puede utilizarlas si lo desea.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[20 puntos]**.

## Text 2

A soldier in the Highland Scots Territorial Regiment writes to his wife from the front during the second battle of Ypres.

Hell Fire Corner, June 2nd 1915

Dear Phyllis,

These are strenuous times indeed. It's well over a week since we came up here, and this is the first opportunity I have had of getting off a letter.

5 We had rather a thrilling march up, and made all the more thrilling by the probability of having to make an attack at the end of it.

Along the none too wide road four streams of traffic were passing, on the outside, to the right, jostling us and moving in the same direction, clattered long lines of ammunition limbers<sup>1</sup>, British and Belgian, the latter reminiscent of country bakers' carts manned by semi-equipped emergency postmen. With them went convoys of motor ambulances. Coming the other way the same limbers and ambulances, but now the limbers were empty and the ambulances full. And on the far side of the road straggling little groups of weary men, some of them hardly able to breathe from the effects of the gas. Through it all buzzed the dispatch riders, twisting and turning among the horses with unbelievable skill. As we marched the men sang, sang as only Scotch troops can.

15 At last we reached the outskirts of Ypres. At the bridge where the sentry stands, guarding the ruined city from the hand of the looter, the pipers turned aside and broke into "Highland Laddie". From the men came what a journalist would probably describe as a "deep-throated roar", and for the life of me I can't give a better word for it. In it blended the voices of the business men, students, clerks, artisans, labourers and all the other classes which go to make up the battalion. As we entered Wipers<sup>2</sup> 20 it died down, for who could be anything but silent in that city of the dead? Past the Cloth Hall, past the Cathedral, past shops and houses now little heaps of crumbling brick.

The men, of course, were dead fagged<sup>3</sup> by the time they got there, but we had to set them to dig themselves in without a moment's rest. Poor devils. But at dawn we were so far down that the Hun<sup>4</sup> had only our head and shoulders to pot at instead of our entire weary anatomies.

25 Since then we have spent the time being shelled by their artillery. Yesterday we had thirteen hours of it without a moment's respite. By night we try to rebuild the trenches which have been blown in by day. After the Germans have been shelling us for an hour or so our own artillery will reply with one round of shrapnel, generally a "dud". But of course that isn't their fault. If only the B.E.F. [British Expeditionary Force] could lay hands on the man whose fault it is, he would have a pretty rough 30 crossing. Was out in No Man's Land<sup>5</sup> last night firing rifle grenades. It was creepy work out there in the long, wet grass, in which you kept on running against dead bodies. To my dismay they all failed to explode, and it was not till we got back safely that I remembered that I had not pulled out the pins!

We hear (1) that our depleted battalion is shortly to return home to recruit, (2) that all T.F. [Territorial Force] battalions are to be withdrawn from the firing line, (3) that we are to do an attack, (4) 35 that we are to form the nucleus of a new conscript battalion, (5) that we are going to Rouen to dig drains.

There's a fine selection for you. Take your choice and it's certain to be untrue. Meanwhile here are we, stretched across the road to Ypres and holding what is probably the most important part of the whole line.

40 With which cheery thought, farewell.

Your Tired THOMAS.

- 
- 1 a limber: a two-wheeled vehicle for transporting ammunition
  - 2 Wipers: the soldiers' way of pronouncing Ypres
  - 3 dead fagged: exhausted
  - 4 the Hun: soldiers' slang for "the Germans"
  - 5 No Man's Land: the area between the trenches of hostile armies

- In what ways does the use of detail add to our understanding of the letter-writer and the situation he finds himself in?
  - Comment on the tone of the letter-writer in relation to his situation and his audience.
- 

Context : -WW1      Battle of Ypres      (1915)  
- letter to wife  
- author: Thomas, captain of the Highland  
Scots scots territorial regiment.

Audience: wife

Purpose: 1. inform audience  
          2. connect with audience

Arguments:

- 1) using contextual understanding and jargon to seem humorous
- 2) using a tired, yet humorous tone to contrast situation and strike a connection.
- 3) Visual description and imagery: describe situation, share experience.

Thesis: Letter-writers ~~are~~ often rely on the context in which they are writing a letter in order to share an experience and strike a meaningful connection with the recipient.



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4 PAGES / PÁGINAS

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15 M T20 P1 - ENSL

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Text 2

At the start of each answer to a question, write the question number in the box using your normal hand writing / Avant de répondre à une question, inscrivez son numéro à la main dans la case appropriée / Al comienzo de cada respuesta, escriba a mano el número de pregunta en la casilla.

Example  
Ejemplo

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Example  
Ejemplo

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Letter-writers often rely on the context in which they are writing their letters in order to effectively recount an experience as well as strike a meaningful connection with the recipient. Thomas, a Captain in the Highland Scots Territorial Regiment, is referred to as "Captain NCS Down," and has written a letter to his wife during the Second battle of Ypres in World-War 1. The only ~~or~~ likely audience would be his wife, ~~himself~~ as the letter from the Imperial War museum is clearly a personal recount of events, this being the primary purpose. ~~As~~ Further,



The nature of the described audience dictates that a very likely secondary purpose is to strike a meaningful connection with his wife, as this is likely a smaller part of a greater ongoing letter exchange during the war. Down, the author, utilises a humorous tone, contrasting this with contextual information of the dire situation, to emphasize his →. The description of his situation, and create a light hearted emotional connection with his wife. Furthermore, the frequent use of humor and irony in his writing style further emphasize this connection, while other insightful description and imagery build upon the purpose primary purpose.

Firstly, the tone of a letter will greatly impact how it is perceived by the reader, and



hence the extent to which experiences may be emotional shared and connections built. In his letter, Captain Down adheres to classic letter structures structure by using the phrase "Dear Phyllis," clearly addressing the letter to his wife. He then shortly follows with short, clear and succinct introductory paragraphs, adhering to the formal register, particularly in the first. He writes "these are abominous times indeed," as if he is having a semi-formal conversation with the recipient, and is a key contextual indicator as to the main contents of the letter. Importantly, Down contrasts this solemn opening in the following paragraph, where he writes "We had a rather thrilling march up," hereby creating an upbeat tone, for which the remainder of the letter will observe.



stack content between the two tones also ~~contradict~~ emphasises the division of the situation, however simultaneously conveys a clear message of good morale within the regiment, whereby Down may share with his wife that he is doing well. Furthermore, being the context of the ~~First~~ First World War, soldiers and those in England did not yet understand the devastation that such a war brings, hence the feeling of nationalism and comradeship is clearly supported by the morale conveyed by the letter's tone. This idea is emphasised by the juxtaposition of the words "even more thrilling" and "attack" in the same sentence, indicating indicated through the positive tone as being a positive idea. In addition, Captain Down writes his text in the first person.





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Example  
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Example  
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making personal statements such as "I can't give a better word for it." Here, the author illustrate the attempts to write an informal, casual and conversational tone, in which he is able to share a meaningful connection with his wife over his recount of events. By writing in the first person, therefore, he not only appeals to the follows the normal style and that of a letter, both formal and informal, but is able to add an extra emotional personal dimension to his writing. This way, he is able to better achieve his primary, and importantly also the his secondary purpose of



developing a ~~per~~ personal relationship with his wife. Finally, Captain Down signs off his letter - an important structural feature - using the phrase "With which cheery thought, farewell," in which ~~he refers to~~ attempts to emphasise the aforementioned cheery tone, ~~so he~~ which is likely the idea that his wife is left with. Import Cenically, as the word "cheery" contrasts the idea of war, in which ~~to both~~ which both the reader and writer are experiencing, the two it becomes emphasised above any negative connotations of the war previously mentioned in the text. This then ensures that the reader is left with peace of mind that her husband is doing well on the front line, which is an important aspect ~~of~~ of the purposes described. Therefore, to the tone of the text



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expresses the reader is place receives the text in a positive way, meaning a deep connection between the author and reader is formed.

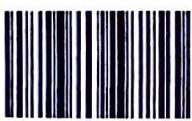
Secondly, friendly banter and jargon are common techniques through which letter writers, writers may form a bond with the reader. The author of this letter writes "The men, of course, were dead fagged," & whereby the phrase "dead fagged" refers to complete exhaustion. The use of jargon works in tandem with the weary connotations of the word "dead," particularly during times of war, to ~~the~~ illustrate a clear sensory feeling of exhaustion, and to provoke an empathetic response from the reader.

Down continues to write "poor devils;" &

& whereby the word "devils" ~~is a~~ is



supposed to convey a feeling of empathy, due  
further to a little is used to change the negative con-  
notations of a word like "devil," to &  
connotations which symbolize empathy. The author  
then described + described describes the # the  
how "the Hun had only one head and shoulders  
to pot at instead of an entire ~~the~~ way  
anatomies." Captain Dicks Down engages in  
friendly banter as the word "pot" is used as  
a euphemism for the literal meaning: to  
shoot. Furthermore, what is likely a degrading word  
for Germany, the "Hun" further diminishes the  
power of the opposition's army, and would likely  
<sup>impact</sup> convey a positive emotion upon the reader, who  
would otherwise be struck by worry of  
her husband. This banter, therefore, emphasises the



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Ejemplo 27

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Example  
Ejemplo 3

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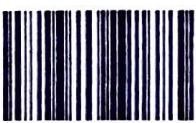
countervailing positive tone, which contrasts the tone in a way such that the author may achieve his primary & secondary purpose. Finally, the author, on multiple occasions, engages directly with the reader, his wife, in order to achieve his secondary purpose. An example of this is the hypophysis used within the rhetorical question "for who couldn't be anything but silent in the city of the dead?" Furthermore, the author starts his final paragraph by saying "There's a fine selection for you," as he attempts to humorously describe the future, and give the reader a sense of agency



to be able to select the future. It helps convey  
humorously  
a sense of moving time, but also dramatise  
the life and likely ensures the reader feels as  
if she is being thought of by her husband.

In these ways, therefore, it can be said  
that humor, conveyed through jargon and banter  
can have a large impact on how the letter  
is experienced within the context of the situation.

Finally, vivid description and great attention  
to detail is often used by authors  
who attempt to share a recollection or  
experience in their writing. Down, for example,  
writes "Along the narrow too wide road," whereby  
tenses are used to flip the meaning of wide to  
narrow, and the visual imagery is enhanced so  
that the reader may gain an appreciation of the



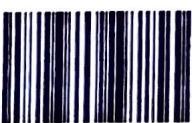
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context of the scene being described. Another great attention to detail is the continual use of euphemisms to convey the dire situation in a more joyful & lry, in order to maintain the aforementioned positive tone. For example, the author uses the word "full ambulances" to give an account of the loss of life he has seen and experienced around him, likely using the euphemism to maintain accuracy in recounting his experience, but also ensuring that the reader does not feel disheartened. Furthermore, the letter-writer dedicates a portion of his text to auditory imagery, as he describes how "the men sang, sang as only Scotch troops can!" Here, the feeling of nationalism and pride, for country and ~~the~~ regiment, illustrates the situation,



working in tandem with the auditory imagery to describe positive morale, and a sense of joy within the authors experience, which not only enhances the primary purpose, but also enhances the authors ability to create connection with the recipient, his secondary purpose. He also uses the idea of sound to creatively contrast with the ~~silent~~ silence in the "city of the dead," which he describes using the phrase "past the Cloth Hall, past the cathedral, past shops and houses now little heaps of crumbling brick." The author uses anaphora in tandem with the listing to convey the ~~the~~ severity of the situation, and place emphasis on the dire visual imagery developed by the description.

In a way, he utilises this as a cry in which



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4 PAGES / PÁGINAS

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Example  
Ejemplo

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27

Example  
Ejemplo

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hey may consume his wife of the importance of his task as a caption. For these reasons, description is undoubtedly crucial in the recount of information, as well as the development of a relationship with the reader.

In conclusion, authors ~~are~~ of letters, particularly during times of war, utilise a contrasting tone, combined with vast amounts of jargon and banter, in order to achieve connection. The description also cleverly is

wed by the author to convey and recount info information, as well as striking a meaningful



connection with the recipient.



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