



## Source 5

## Task

**5a** The inspector was also responsible for coalmines in areas of Scotland. Were the coalmines better in England or Scotland? How does he believe that the Scottish coalmines could be improved?

**5b** Read the second paragraph, what reasons does the inspector give for the air in coalmines being so poor?

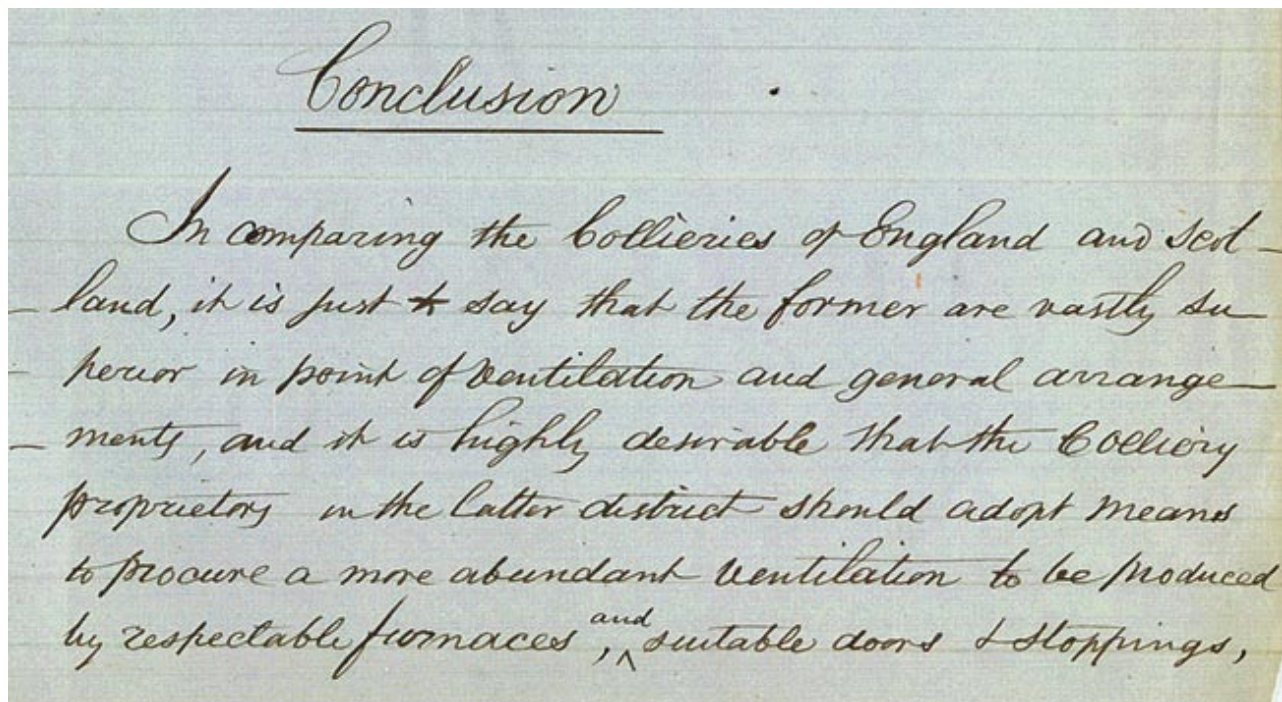
**5c** Read paragraphs four and five, what does the inspector believe would be the quickest way of improving mine safety?

**5d** Why does he think this is not happening?



## Source 5

This is the conclusion of the inspector's report you have looked at in sources 1-3. Here he sums up his findings and makes recommendations.



(PRO ref: HO 87/53)





but the absence of inflammable air induces the neglect of this caution, so essential to health, <sup>though it</sup> ~~but~~ often happens that an unlooked for discharge of gas however diminutive, occasions the loss of life; also disease is engendered by the want of atmospheric air which healthily but unobservedly saps the human constitution. — — — — —

I have tried the quantity of air in many of the Scotch Collieries, accounted respectable in point of ventilation, and found the total quantity only, 3000 or 4000 Cub. feet p minute, and in consequence this current is liable to be affected and even reversed by the slightest accident — for where the ventilation is so weak the breath of the workmen, the powder smoke arising from the blasting, <sup>and</sup> the smoking of tobacco, produce an atmosphere which cannot fail to be subversive of health, — — — — —





The prevalence of single doors at the shaft bottom is also a constant interruption to the air current, as every time the tub is brought through, the air rushes up the shaft to the neglect, and partial stagnation of the workings. —

Upon the whole however I may remark, that there is a growing desire abroad, of improving the condition of the mines, but it would be more speedily advanced and accidents more effectually avoided, if the workmen were more alive to their own safety, and would more frequently attract the attention of the Inspector to circumstances, wherein they consider the management deficient. —

I am not unaware of the allegation, that were they to do so, they would be visited by reprehension and





discharge from the work, and altho some individuals might take such a discreditable course; I take upon myself to say, that in very few cases would the Owner of a Colliery act so contributively towards workmen, who in a fair and candid manner, sought the interference of the Inspector in a case wherein the Colliery Owner himself was so highly interested. — — — — —

But even suppose that to be the case I conceive it is the bounden duty of the Inspector to attend to an application from individual colliers, so far as to ascertain the nature and grounds of the application and to treat such application as Confidential. —

Matthias Dunn  
mine Inspector  
