



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

COMPONENT 2

**19th and 21st Century Non-fiction Reading and
Transactional/Persuasive Writing**

SPECIMEN PAPER

2 hours



ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material for use with Section A.

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A - about 10 minutes reading
 - about 50 minutes answering the questions

Section B spend 30 minutes on each question
 - about 5 minutes planning
 - about 25 minutes writing

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

SECTION A: 40 MARKS

Answer all of the following questions

*The **separate Resource Material for use with Section A** is a newspaper article, 'Waste not, Want not', by John Humphrys.*

The extract opposite is from a housekeeping book, 'The American Frugal Housewife', written in 1832 by Lydia M. Child.

Read the newspaper article by John Humphrys in the separate Resource Material.

- A1.** (a) How much food is wasted by the British every year? [1]
(b) How much does it cost to get rid of wasted food? [1]
(c) How much food is thrown away by an average supermarket every year? [1]
- A2.** John Humphrys is trying to persuade us to be less wasteful. How does he try to do this? [10]

You should comment on:

- what he says to influence readers;
- his use of language and tone;
- the way he presents his argument.

To answer the following questions you will need to read the extract opposite by Lydia M. Child.

- A3.** (a) What does the writer mean by "Time is money" in line 2? [1]
(b) What does the writer suggest family members should do to help in the house? [2]
- A4.** What do you think and feel about Lydia M. Child's views about running a household? [10]

You should comment on:

- what is said;
- how it is said.

You must refer to the text to support your comments

To answer the following questions you will need to use both texts.

- A5.** According to these two writers, why should Americans change their attitudes to leftover food? [4]
- A6.** Both of these texts are about waste. Compare the following:
• the writers' attitudes to waste;
• how they get across their arguments. [10]

You must use the text to support your comments and make it clear which text you are referring to.

The American Frugal Housewife

The true economy of housekeeping is simply the art of gathering up all the fragments, so that nothing be lost. I mean fragments of time, as well as materials. 'Time is money.' For this reason, cheap as stockings are, it is good economy to knit them. Cotton and woollen yarn are both cheap; stockings that are knit wear twice as long as woven ones; and they can be done at odd minutes of time, which would not be otherwise employed. Where there are children, or aged people, it is sufficient to recommend knitting, that it is an employment. Nothing should be thrown away so long as it is possible to make any use of it, however trifling that use may be; and whatever be the size of a family, every member should be employed either in earning or saving money. Buy merely enough to get along with at first. It is only by experience that you can tell what will be the wants of your family. If you spend all your money, you will find you have purchased many things you do not want, and have no means left to get many things which you do want. Have all the good bits of vegetables and meat collected after dinner, and minced before they are set away; that they may be in readiness to make a little savoury mince meat for supper or breakfast. Take the skins off your potatoes before they grow cold. Economy is generally despised as a low virtue, tending to make people ungenerous and selfish. This is true of avarice; but it is not so of economy. The man who is economical, is laying up for himself the permanent power of being useful and generous. He who thoughtlessly gives away ten dollars, when he owes a hundred more than he can pay, deserves no praise,— he obeys a sudden impulse, more like instinct than reason: it would be real charity to check this feeling; because the good he does maybe doubtful, while the injury he does his family and creditors is certain. It would be better to ensure that no opportunity for economy is overlooked. Use the shopping list for a family for a week to make sure nothing – food nor money – is wasted.

Weekly shopping list	Cost
Meat for Sunday, etc. (3 lbs of salt beef at 2½ cents per lb.)	7½ cents
Tea, sugar and milk	15 cents
Vegetables	6 cents
Oil	6 cents
Coals	2 cents
Bread	22 cents
Meat, vegetables, etc. for a stew (six persons)	9½ cents
Soap, soda, and other sundries	6 cents
Potatoes and lard (a "baked dinner")	4 cents
<i>Total expenditure for the week</i>	78 cents

The American Frugal Housewife, by Lydia M. Child 1832

'WASTE NOT, WANT NOT'

The Proverb We All Forgot

In the wilds of Texas I once went to a restaurant called the Big Texan. Its name derives partly from the size of the waiters – you have to be at least 6ft 6in to work there – and partly from the size of the portions. The speciality of the house is a steak that weighs 72oz. That is approximately the size of the average Sunday joint, with enough left over for at least another family meal.

Most people give up and what they leave is, of course, thrown away. The whole place is one great temple dedicated to the worship of waste and if you ever feel the need for a swift dose of British moral superiority, I strongly recommend a visit to the Big Texan. When it comes to waste, the Americans are the unquestioned champions of the world.

But the British are beginning to challenge them. An official report has revealed that we waste 500,000 tons of food every year. Now that is not food that has grown mould in the back of the fridge and lurks there threatening to take over the world; it is edible food that has merely passed its sell by date on the supermarket shelves.



It is worth about £400 million and it costs another £50 million just to get rid of it. Here is what happens to most of it.

When we buy our food in the supermarket we rummage around the shelves to find the product with the latest sell by date. The stuff with the earliest dates is left on the shelf and, because the barmy rules and regulations would have us believe that we shall die in agony if we eat a spoonful of yoghurt 30 seconds after the date on the carton, it ends up in the landfill site. It is shameful nonsense. Every year a typical supermarket chucks out 50 tons of perfectly good food. Still feel so smug about the wasteful Americans?

That food could be used by any number of needy people, but we throw it out. Only a fraction is handed over to charities, who are constantly begging for more. Some of us might cluck a little over the wickedness of a world in which we waste food while Ethiopian children starve, but we get over it. We smile at memories of our mothers telling us it's wrong not to eat all your dinner when children are starving in Africa. The truth is, we only care about waste in the context of money. Our attitude seems to be, if we can afford to waste things, then why the hell shouldn't we?

I know a woman who is reasonably well off and a keen cook, who will not use a recipe calling for egg whites unless she can find use for the yolks at the same time. She would rather slit her wrists than throw out perfectly good egg yolks.



But then, she is 70 and, as she says, she came to hate waste during the war years and rationing. She thinks it is plain wrong to waste. She is right.

I am still smarting from an interview I did last year. I confessed to the interviewer that I turned off lights when I left the room and boiled only a mug-full of water if that was all I needed. Could this really be true? I'm afraid so, I said. Such ridicule was heaped on me in her article that I bought all the papers in my local shop, dumped them in the recycling bin (naturally) and went into hiding. If only I had admitted to being a serial murderer instead.

Now, if you will excuse me, I need to pop outside because a police horse has just deposited a great pile of manure in the road in front of my house. It will do wonders for my vegetables and it would be such a waste to leave it there to be squashed by a passing car. However, I shall cover my head with a balaclava just in case anybody sees me with my shovel. They would think I was crazy.

John Humphrys

The Sunday Times, 9th April 2000

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your writing skills.

For each question, 12 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 8 marks are awarded for vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.

Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.

You should aim to write about 300-400 words for each task.

B1. Your school/college is keen to reduce waste.

Write a report for the Headteacher/Principal suggesting ways this might be done.

You could include:

- examples of waste at the moment;
- your ideas about how the situation could be improved. [20]

B2. A proposal has been made to hold a motorcycle race on the roads in your area.

You have decided to write an article for your community magazine to share your views on this proposal. You could write in favour or against this proposal.

Write a lively article for the magazine giving your views. [20]

The space below can be used to plan your work.