



GCSE

150/06

ENGLISH

HIGHER TIER

PAPER 2

A.M. MONDAY, 10 November 2008

2 hours

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Answer **all** questions in Section A and B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 50 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 35 minutes

Q. B2 – about 35 minutes

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** the following questions.

The Resource Material for use with Section A is a newspaper article by Emma Cowing entitled 'Heart-throbs of the High Sea'.

The telephone interview opposite, given by James Cracknell, appeared on the Internet.

Look at the extract from the telephone interview given by James Cracknell on the opposite page.

A1. What impressions does James Cracknell give of what it was like to take part in the race? [10]

Look at 'Heart-throbs of the High Sea' by Emma Cowing in the separate Resource Material.

Look at the first column.

A2. According to Emma Cowing, how do women react to Ben Fogle and James Cracknell? [5]

Look at the second column.

A3. Explain why Fogle and Cracknell took part in the Atlantic race. [5]

Look at the rest of the article.

A4. How does the writer, Emma Cowing, show the dangers and problems faced by Fogle and Cracknell during the race?

You should consider:

- what she says;
- how she says it.

[10]

Look at both texts.

A5. What do you learn from these two texts about the relationship between Ben Fogle and James Cracknell?

You should organise your answer into two paragraphs under the following headings:

- their relationship during the race;
- their relationship after the race.

[10]

Telephone interview with James Cracknell

In 2005, Olympic gold medal winner James Cracknell and television presenter Ben Fogle were rowing in the Atlantic Rowing Race towards Antigua in the West Indies. Their blisters and other injuries were so bad that Fogle, with a swollen finger, wasn't sure how much longer he would be able to carry on. But their main worry was the hurricane bearing down on the 23ft boat that could blow them back towards their starting point, the Canary Islands. This is what James Cracknell said in a telephone interview during the race:

Since last Saturday, we have hardly made any progress – just 100 miles in almost a week. We've experienced the worst weather they've ever had in the race and it looks as if it will continue until next Tuesday.

The hurricane itself didn't hit us, but we got caught by strong winds blowing in exactly the wrong direction so we had to put down the sea anchor. For two and a half days we were stuck in our cabin, which is like being shut in a car boot. When the wind eased off, we were able to set off at midnight and row for seven hours, which took us over the 2,000 miles-to-go mark. We celebrated with a chocolate bar. But we keep having to stop because of the weather. We've lost so many days that we are starting having to ration our food. We wanted to do the race in forty days, and took enough food for fifty, but that looks optimistic now, so we've cut our daily ration of 8,000 calories by 600. By the time we get to the last few days, we will be having a horrible time because we've left all the food we don't like until then.

We've been thirsty as well as hungry. Earlier in the week, the machine which removes salt from seawater broke and we nearly had to break into the fresh water we carry as ballast. We could only drink five to six litres a day, instead of ten.

We haven't seen another boat since the day we set off so we don't know our position in the race. The weather has brought out the differences in our competitive attitudes, so there has been a bit of tension. I mind about being overtaken and I'm keener to row in the rain than Ben is; he just wants to get to the end. The race is a battle with your mind and little things can become really annoying.

I'm not looking forward to the next four days because we're going to be stuck in the cabin again. We're bored with talking to each other, we've only got one pack of cards, and we've played all the games we know. We need to sleep as much as we can, but it gets really hot in the cabin because the wind is so strong that we have to keep the windows and hatch shut. Out of a twelve-hour night we probably sleep for only two hours and spend the rest of the night trying to get comfortable. We sleep head to toe on a shelf that is only the width of a shoulder and, just as I am dozing off, I find Ben's foot in my mouth. It has been such a hard slog that both of us are struggling to find the excitement in this adventure.

SECTION B: 40 marks

Answer Question B1 and Question B2.

*In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.
Take special care with handwriting, spelling, punctuation and layout.*

Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.

A guide to the amount you should write is given with each question.

- B1.** You have heard about a sponsored challenge in which participants will have to do a twenty mile walk across hills and rugged country. Money will be raised for charity but the challenge will be physically tough.

Write a letter to a friend persuading him or her to take part. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.

- B2.** You have to give a talk to your class with the title ‘Mobile phones: a blessing or a curse?’

Write what you would say. [20]

The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.



GCSE

150/06-A

ENGLISH

HIGHER TIER

PAPER 2

A.M. MONDAY, 10 November 2008

Resource Material for use with Section A

Heart-throbs of the High Sea

“What lovely boys!” exclaims a woman in a tweed suit, eyes riveted to a desk on the far side of the main foyer of the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall. Another woman totters past on the arm of her teenage son, pouting grumpily. “Never mind, Mum,” he consoles her, “maybe you’ll get a kiss next time.” In the corner, a small gaggle of excited female staff has assembled, just to gaze.

The subjects of all this attention are sitting behind a large table signing books, oblivious to the commotion they might be causing. Or maybe they are just used to it. When Ben Fogle and James Cracknell walk into a room, ladies swoon. When they appeared on stage earlier to discuss their recent adventure, you could almost hear the rustle as 400 women simultaneously started rooting in their bags for lipstick.



The pair spent 49 days rowing the Atlantic in a tiny boat, winning the world’s toughest rowing race, despite having spent only four months preparing. Most people, it is fair to say, thought they were mad.

Fogle has presented a number of TV programmes, including *Animal Park* and *Cash in the Attic*. Unlike Cracknell, a two-time Olympic gold medallist at rowing, Fogle had no experience in the sport. So why do something so extreme?

“It gives you a huge buzz,” he says. Later on though, he admits, “A psychologist would say it was a symptom of not wanting to be seen as ‘Ben Fogle, presenter of *Cash in the Attic*’. There is a lot more to me than that.” Cracknell had only recently won his second gold medal at the Olympics when he bumped into Fogle at a party. When Fogle asked if he would be interested in rowing the Atlantic, his answer was an emphatic “no”. However, the idea grew on him, in part because of confusion over his future career. Cracknell says, “Stopping sport is an incredibly tough thing. I’ve had opportunities to do other things, but if anyone asks what I’m doing now, nothing sounds as worthwhile as ‘I’m training for the Olympics’. You work to a routine and everything is done for you. You don’t have to grow up.”

He thought he could use the time away from e-mail, the mobile and the pressures of everyday life to think things through, and make a final decision on whether to compete in the next Olympics. “Yeah. Things didn’t quite work out like that,” he says with a sideways smile at Fogle.

The men worked in two-hour shifts. While one rowed, the other would sleep for 90 minutes in the tiny, airless cabin that felt, Fogle says, “like a coffin.” Then they would get up, wash, eat and prepare to take the oars for the next two hours. They repeated this routine 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for the best part of two months.

They endured a terrifying capsizing and a near miss with a Russian tanker the size of Canary Wharf Tower. It might, then, have been useful had Fogle learned to row beforehand. “I thought that rowing couldn’t be that hard...” Fogle starts. Cracknell interrupts sarcastically to point out that “it’s not that hard but it does take a lot of practice.”

“Exactly, practice,” Fogle replies. “And I thought if there’s anywhere I’m going to learn, it’s at sea spending months in a rowing boat.”

Cracknell looks at him, puzzled. It is their relationship – and the differences between them – that lies at the heart of their journey. Fogle describes himself as “a take-parter.” Cracknell is obsessed with winning. Fogle wanted to quit following their capsizing; Cracknell wouldn’t hear of it. They had monumental arguments over the water supply, and Fogle got so angry with Cracknell that, at one point, he attempted to break the seat.

“We had a lot of blazing rows,” says Fogle. “But after the capsizing, when we didn’t have the satellite phone and couldn’t speak to relatives, we had to speak to each other. We’d always known we relied on each other to get through, but it was only after that I fully realised it was a friendship.”

Cracknell recalls one moment when they had a huge barney which culminated in Fogle telling him that he hated being on the boat with him. “It really did hurt,” he says. “It made me realise how much I had enjoyed his company. I learned that there’s a side to him that’s very different from me. It was at that moment that I realised our friendship would go beyond the race.”

And it really did. Two days after they arrived safely in Antigua, Fogle proposed to his girlfriend. He asked Cracknell to be his best man. I ask Fogle if he thinks the experience has changed him. He nods. “Yeah, I don’t think I would have been married now. The sea definitely changes you. There’s no doubt about it.”

“Me too probably,” Cracknell says wryly. Which is ironic, because it was the race that put Cracknell’s marriage, to TV presenter Bev Turner, under pressure in the first place. With a young son to look after, his wife was understandably upset that her husband was leaving her for two months. Just before he set off, she gave a starchy interview to a newspaper, saying: “Look, I married a rower – I didn’t marry an explorer. That is not what I signed up for.” Their goodbye was frosty to say the least. Strangely though, the trip gave them both time to realise how much they meant to each other.

One thing Cracknell definitely got his head round while he was away was that his days as an international rower were over. “I don’t want to do any more rowing, thanks. I’m sure I’ll regret it when I see them standing on the podium at the Olympics, but I’m ready to do something different.”

Emma Cowing (The Scotsman Oct 17, 2006)