



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
Higher Tier  
November 2013

## English/English Language

ENG1H

Unit 1 Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

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### Insert

The three sources that follow are:

- **Source 1:** an online newspaper article called *Children 'are being denied sheer joy of the outdoors'* by Oliver Moody
- **Source 2:** an article called *Forget the X Factor... Mongolia's got talons*
- **Source 3:** *Motorbikes and Pyramids* an extract from a non-fiction book by Ewan McGregor

**Please open the insert fully  
to see all three sources**

## Source 1

## THE TIMES

## Child Health

News | Opinion | Business | Money | Sports | **Life** | Arts | Puzzles | Papers |

Tuesday, February 1 | London | Max 7c  |  | 

## Children ‘are being denied sheer joy of the outdoors’

Oliver Moody

Children are out of touch with nature and need more freedom from health and safety for the sake of their well-being, the head of the National Trust, Dame Fiona Reynolds, has told The Times.

Dame Fiona is calling for schools to “take the initiative” and change the way they teach children, with a block of time spent in the outdoors every week.

Dame Fiona said that dependence on the computer and anxious parents obsessed with their children’s safety were keeping young people shut up indoors more than ever before, with “worrying” consequences for their health. “Children are missing out on the sheer joy and physical and mental well-being of being able to play outside and experience nature in all its messiness,” she said.



The creep of urban sprawl had destroyed many places where children could once play safely, she said. “When I was a child, we used to play in spaces which have now all been built on. There isn’t that slightly tatty countryside at the edge of a town which you can go off and explore.”

The National Trust, which represents nearly four million members, believes that the cloistered upbringing of many children could be harmful. It says there is evidence that keeping children indoors gives them weaker immune systems, and that figures show children are three times more likely to injure themselves by falling out of bed than by falling out of a tree.

But Dame Fiona said it was also bad for their happiness. “We did a lot of interviews with people about their childhood memories and the things that made them happy, and actually it’s amazing how often they are associated with some kind of outdoors experience — taking a boat out on a lake, or rock-pool fishing on holiday, or something like that,” she said. “But for many, many people those experiences just aren’t there. Young people today in some of our interviews said, ‘Oh, I don’t go to the countryside’. They were almost frightened of the experience. They certainly have no idea where to go or why they would want to go.”

Children needed to take risks, and it was wrong to apply health and safety culture to the countryside as though it were like the city, she said. “It’s a matter of knowing where the risks are, but not trying to wipe them away.”

The National Trust also says that unpaid outdoor work helps young people who are seeking a job. Dame Fiona said that work experience with the Trust helped young adults. “What gives people dignity is purpose, a sense of focused energy where you can see what you’re achieving.”

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Source 2

## Forget the X Factor... Mongolia's got talons



Tucking in: A golden eagle grabs a bite in the far west of Mongolia

It's sometimes worth remembering that not everyone in the world regards entertainment as watching talent contests on television. In Mongolia, they are awfully proud of showing off their golden eagles. The huge birds, which can have a wingspan of more than 2.5m and claw-like talons to tear at their prey, go on display at the Eagle Festival.

The annual event promotes the preservation of the eagles and helps maintain the culture of the ethnic Kazakh minority. In one challenge, a bird is perched on a mountainside as its master gallops off on a horse. When the eagle is called, it must land on the owner's outstretched arm. Points are awarded for the speed and agility of the bird.

Hunting with golden eagles is an integral part of Kazakh culture. Chronicles from the 13th century record Kublai Khan's outings with 5,000 falconers.

Known as the 'King of the Birds', golden eagles are at the top of their particular food chain and the predators rarely find themselves as the prey. The dark golden-brown plumage on their heads and necks gave them their name and with their impressive wingspans they can hover in the sky for hours while eyeing up their next meal.

The golden eagles' extra keen eyesight means they can catch a glimpse of their ground prey such as rabbits, marmots and squirrels from miles away. And when they spot something that takes their fancy, they can fly at speeds of up to 150 miles per hour when diving to catch it. Meaning not much stands a chance once this eagle-eyed beast has its sights set on the prize.

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**Source 3**

## **Motorbikes and Pyramids**

*Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman are making a TV film about riding their motorbikes from Scotland to South Africa. Here they are in Egypt but are behind schedule.*

Charley was on my outside and I rode with one hand on the bars and one in my lap; the asphalt true and grippy. For a while it seemed the land was greener, farming country perhaps, but before we knew it there was the sand again – the rubble, piles of rock littered across the horizon.

I'd been in a very bad mood and it was only just beginning to ease. I wasn't quite sure how our planning had gone so awry; it hadn't been like this when we rode round the world. I don't remember this level of tension either; we'd had our moments but this time we seemed to go from one petty squabble to another.

Giza came up quicker than I expected, so preoccupied was I with my thoughts. All at once the driving worsened, the cars came thick and fast and we were on the outskirts of the town. Cars were hooting, kids yelling from donkey carts and bicycles.

And then there they were. Just a glimpse to begin with, they seemed to grow up from the middle of the town itself. It took a moment to dawn: the pyramids. My God, I'd ridden my motorbike all the way to the great pyramids of Egypt.

Excitement gripped me. We funnelled into traffic; the buildings stained a dirty yellow; apartments, stalls, people everywhere peering at us and waving. We came to a checkpoint and stopped. It was early evening, the sun just beginning to set.

People wandered over to look at the bikes; mine was hot and sounded pretty gnarly. I switched the engine off.

'Hey, Ewan,' Charley said, 'there's a golf course over there. Imagine having a round of golf with the pyramids as your backdrop.' I could hear the enthusiasm in his voice. Suddenly all the tension seemed to lift. There's nothing like witnessing one of the great wonders of the world if you want to put your troubles into perspective.

Moments later we were moving up to a chequered barrier and the pyramids were right ahead of us and not quite as deep in the town as I'd thought. The road was wide and dusty; it snaked a few hundred yards to where the massive stone structures dominated the skyline. As I passed his truck, Ramy, our fixer, was standing there in his Indiana Jones hat.

'All yours,' he called.

Initially I didn't understand what he meant. Then I realised – the area was closed off for the evening, and we were the only visitors. I couldn't believe it. Not only had I ridden my bike to the pyramids, now we had them to ourselves. Two colossal structures, they lifted from the desert with Cairo on one side and an ancient expanse of nothingness on the other. I was speechless, standing on the foot-pegs of my bike as if in homage.

Ewan McGregor

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**Open out this page to see  
Source 2 and Source 3**