

ENGLISH A2 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1
ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1
INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1

Friday 2 May 2003 (morning)
Vendredi 2 mai 2003 (matin)
Viernes 2 de mayo de 2003 (mañana)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Section B consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Choose either Section A or Section B. Write one comparative commentary.

INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS

- Ne pas ouvrir cette épreuve avant d’y être autorisé.
- La section A comporte deux passages à commenter.
- La section B comporte deux passages à commenter.
- Choisissez soit la section A soit la section B. Écrire un commentaire comparatif.

INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- En la Sección A hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- En la Sección B hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- Elija la Sección A o la Sección B. Escriba un comentario comparativo.

Choose either Section A or Section B.

SECTION A

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 1 (a)

Hikers should always carry a compass¹ and carefully keep track of their approximate location on the map.

If you lose a trail and it is not visible to either side, it is usually best to backtrack right away to the last mark seen and look again from there; this will be made much easier if you
5 carefully note each trail marking and keep track of where and how long ago you saw the most recent one. Even when you cannot immediately find the trail, it is a serious but not a desperate situation. Few people become truly lost in the White Mountains²; a moment's reflection and five minutes with the map will show that you probably know at least your approximate location and the direction to the nearest road, if nothing else. Most cases in
10 which a person has become lost for any length of time involve panic and aimless wandering, so the most important first step is to take a break, make an inventory of useful information, decide on a course of action and stick to it. If you have carefully kept track of your location on the map, it will usually be possible to find a nearby stream, trail, or road to which a compass course may be followed.

Hiking is a sport of self-reliance. Its high potential for adventure and relatively low level of regulation have been made possible by the dedication of most hikers to the values of prudence and independence. This tradition of self-reliance imposes an obligation on each of us: at any time we may have to rely on our own ingenuity and judgment, aided by map and compass, to reach our goals or even make a timely exit from the woods. While
20 the penalty for error rarely exceeds an unplanned and uncomfortable night in the woods, more serious consequences are possible. Most hikers find satisfaction in obtaining the knowledge and skills that free them from blind dependence on the next blaze³ or trail sign, and enable them to walk in the woods with confidence and assurance. Those who learn the skills of getting about in the woods, the habits of studious acquisition of information
25 before the trip and careful observation while in the woods, soon find that they have experienced the “Freedom of the Hills”.

Adapted from the *Appalachian Mountain Club White Mountain Guide*, 25th edition, 1992

¹ compass: a device for determining direction by means of a magnetic needle which points to the north

² White Mountains: a mountain chain in the northeastern United States

³ blaze: a trail marker, usually made on a tree by chipping off a piece of the bark

Text 1 (b)

Welcome to GPS

What is GPS?

Imagine being an archaeologist on an expedition to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. The forest is dense, the sun is hot, and the air is humid. The only way you can record where you have been, or find your way back to civilization, is by using the almost magic power of your GPS receiver.

Since prehistoric times, people have been trying to figure out a reliable way to tell where they are, to help guide them to where they are going, and to get them back home again. GPS, which stands for Global Positioning System, is the only system today able to show you your exact position on the Earth anytime, in any weather, anywhere. GPS satellites, 24 in all, orbit at 11 000 nautical miles above the Earth. They are continuously monitored by ground stations located worldwide. The satellites transmit signals that can be detected by anyone with a GPS receiver. Using the receiver, you can determine your location with great precision.

GPS is one of history's most exciting and revolutionary developments, and new uses for it are constantly being discovered.

GPS Uses in Everyday Life

There will probably be a time soon when every car can be equipped with a GPS receiver, including a video screen installed in the dashboard showing your location and a map of the roads around you. Vehicle tracking is one of the fastest-growing GPS applications. GPS-equipped fleet vehicles, public transportation systems, delivery trucks, and courier services use receivers to monitor their locations at all times.

GPS is also helping to save lives. Many police, fire, and emergency medical service units are using GPS receivers to determine the police car, fire truck, or ambulance nearest to an emergency, enabling the quickest possible response in life-or-death situations.

Mapping and surveying companies use GPS extensively. In the field of wildlife management, threatened species are being fitted with GPS receivers and tiny transmitters to help determine population distribution patterns and possible sources of disease. GPS-equipped balloons are monitoring holes in the ozone layer, and air quality is being monitored using GPS receivers. Buoys tracking major oil spills transmit data using GPS.

Archaeologists and explorers are using the system. Anyone equipped with a GPS receiver can use it as a reference point to find another location. With a basic knowledge of math and science, plus a hand-held GPS receiver, you could be an instant hero if you and friends got lost on a camping trip.

The future of GPS is as unlimited as your imagination. New applications will continue to be created as the technology evolves. The GPS satellites, like handmade stars in the sky, will be guiding you well into the 21st century.

Adapted from the Education page of the Aerospace Corporation website, 1999
<http://www.aero.org/publications/GPSPRIMER>

SECTION B

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

Text 2 (a)

My earliest recollection of my father is a view from the floor of gigantic rubber boots and then of being suddenly elevated and having my face pressed against the stubble of his cheek, and of how it tasted of salt and of how he smelled of salt from his red-soled rubber boots to the shaggy whiteness of his hair.

5 When I was very small, he took me for my first ride in the boat. I rode the half-mile from our house to the wharf¹ on his shoulders and I remember the sound of his rubber boots galumphing along the gravel beach, the tune of the indecent little song he used to sing, and the odour of the salt.

10 The floor of the boat was permeated with the same odour and in its constancy I was not aware of change. In the harbour we made our little circle and returned. He tied the boat by its painter², fastened the stern to its permanent anchor and lifted me high over his head to the solidity of the wharf. Then he climbed up the little iron ladder to the wharf, placed me once more upon his shoulders and galumphed off again.

15 When we returned to the house everyone made a great fuss over my precocious³ excursion and asked, “How did you like the boat?” “Were you afraid in the boat?” “Did you cry in the boat?” They repeated “the boat” at the end of all their questions and I knew it must be very important to everyone.

20 When he was not in the boat, my father spent most of his time lying on the bed in his socks, the top two buttons of his trousers undone, his discarded shirt on the ever-ready chair and the sleeves of the woollen Stanfield underwear, which he wore both summer and winter, drawn half way up to his elbows. The pillows propped up the whiteness of his head and the goose-necked lamp illuminated the pages in his hands. The cigarettes smoked and smouldered on the ashtray and on the table and the radio played constantly, sometimes low and sometimes loud. At midnight and at one, two, three and four, one
25 could sometimes hear the radio, his occasional cough, the rustling thud of a completed book being tossed to the corner heap, or the movement necessitated by his sitting on the edge of the bed to roll the thousandth cigarette. He seemed never to sleep, only to doze, and the light shone constantly from his window to the sea.

Adapted from the short story “The Boat” by Alistair MacLeod, 1968

¹ wharf: dock

² painter: a rope used for tying up a boat

³ precocious: exhibiting mature qualities at an unusually early age

Text 2 (b)

Childhood

Long time he lay upon the sunny hill,
To his father's house below securely bound.
Far off the silent, changing sound¹ was still,
With the black islands lying thick around.

5 He saw each separate height, each vaguer hue,
Where the massed islands rolled in mist away,
And though all ran together in his view
He knew that unseen straits² between them lay.

Often he wondered what new shores were there.
10 In thought he saw the still light on the sand,
The shallow water clear in tranquil air,
And walked through it in joy from strand³ to strand.

Over the sound a ship so slow would pass
That in the black hill's gloom it seemed to lie.
15 The evening sound was smooth like sunken glass,
And time seemed finished ere⁴ the ship passed by.

Grey tiny rocks slept round him where he lay,
Moveless as they, more still as evening came,
The grasses threw straight shadows far away,
20 And from the house his mother called his name.

Edwin Muir, 1925

¹ sound: an inlet of the ocean

² straits: channels of water

³ strand: beach

⁴ ere: before
