



## Oundle School

### English Department IGCSE Sample Questions

#### Section B

#### Part 1 and Part 2 Style Questions on the Anthology

##### **Touching The Void**

###### *Reading tasks*

- How does the writer help the reader to appreciate the experiences of Joe and Simon?
- How do the writers convey the sense of the danger they were in?

###### *Writing tasks*

- Write about a time when you have had to make a difficult decision, explaining in a way that would help the reader to understand your thoughts and feelings.
- Write an account of an accident you were involved in or you witnessed.
- Imagine you have a friend who is interested in taking up mountaineering as a sport. Write a letter to him either encouraging him to continue or persuading him to stop.

##### **Harriet Tubman**

###### *Reading tasks*

- What impressions do you get of the character of Harriet Tubman?
- How does the writer make Harriet Tubman's life story interesting to the reader?
- How does the writer reveal the remarkable details of Harriet Tubman's life?

###### *Writing tasks*

- Imagine that you were giving a speech encouraging pupils to act more selflessly in their community. Write the words of that speech.
- What do you believe in? Write about something that you believe is important in life. Explain what your belief is and why it is so important to you.
- Write an article for the school magazine in which you describe the achievements of someone that you admire.

##### **I Never Thought I Could Be This Lucky**

###### *Reading tasks*

- How does the writer try to engage the reader in the emotional elements of Karen's story, rather than just the accident?
- How does the writer make the subject of a terrible accident seem heart warming to the reader?
- How does the writer convey the difficulties of Karen's life?
- What personal qualities does Karen show in overcoming her difficulties?

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### *Writing tasks*

- Write about a relationship that has been important to you. Explain why you value the relationship so highly and what qualities the other person has.
- Imagine that you are one of the people who shared a flat with Karen after her accident. Write an article for the university newspaper describing the experience.
- Write a short article for the school magazine about a turning point in your own life.
- Write a letter to a friend in which you reflect on a difficult time or experience in your life.

### **Impact Alert – Asteroids**

#### *Reading tasks*

- How can we tell that this writer deliberately intended his writing to be in a magazine rather than a science text book?
- How does the writer make the subject of an asteroid impact appealing to the reader?
- How does the writer maintain our interest in this article?
- How does the writer convey the danger of asteroids in this article?

#### *Writing tasks*

Imagine that you had to shelter from a natural disaster. Describe what preparations you would make and what you would take with you into the shelter.

### **Shopping For Romanian Babies**

#### *Reading tasks*

- In what ways does the writer do more than simply describe what she saw and who she talked to?
- How does the writer convey the desperate situation of the babies sold in Romania?

#### *Writing tasks*

- Write about something in your experience that you find shocking or unacceptable. Explain your views clearly.
- Write a letter to your MP in which you complain about something you consider to be unfair. You should aim to persuade the MP to take action.

### **Explorers Or Boys Messing About?**

#### *Reading tasks*

- How does the writer try to persuade the reader towards his point of view?
- How does the writer make the subject of a failed exploration appealing to the reader?
- How does the writer encourage us to take an unsympathetic view of the actions of the two men?

#### *Writing tasks*

- ‘Explorers should be forced to pay for the cost of their own rescues, however expensive.’ Write a letter to a newspaper arguing for or against this statement.
- Write about a time, real or imaginary, when you have experienced danger. Describe what happened and how you reacted.
- Write a newspaper story that tries to persuade the reader that the two men were heroic and admirable.

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### Chinese Cinderella

#### Reading tasks

- How does Adeline Yen Mah present her relationship with her family?
- How does the writer help us to understand her thoughts and feelings during this section?

#### Writing tasks

- Imagine that you have won a large amount of money. Explain how you would use this money and why.
- What do you understand the title of this extract to mean?
- Write about a time, real or imaginary, when you expected something bad to happen but things turned out right in the end.

### Taking On The World

#### Reading tasks

- What do we learn about the character of the writer as she tells her story?
- How does this passage bring out the thoughts and feelings of Ellen MacArthur as she sails alone in a race round the world?

#### Writing tasks

- Write about a time, real or imaginary, when you have been faced with a challenge and have struggled to overcome it.

### A Foreign Field

#### Reading tasks

- How does the writer help us to understand Robert Digby's relationships with those he writes to?
- How does the writer create a sense of tragedy in this passage?

#### Writing tasks

- Imagine that you have to go on a long journey. Write two letters, one to a close friend and another to someone who is less close describing your thoughts and feelings.

## Section B, Part 2 Questions: Further Examples

**Remember that this question will be based in some way on the Anthology extract used for Part 1 of Section B.**

- Write about a time in your life when you achieved something that was difficult to do.
- Write a short article for the school magazine about a turning point in your own life. Remember to start with a suitable headline.
- Imagine that you have won a large amount of money. Explain how you would use this money and why.
- 'Explorers and adventurers should be forced to pay for the cost of their own rescues, however expensive.' Write a letter to a newspaper arguing for or against this statement.
- Imagine you have witnessed a natural disaster, such as a flood or an earthquake. Write a report for your local radio station describing what you saw.

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- Imagine you have a friend who is interested in taking up mountaineering as a sport. Write a letter to him either encouraging him to continue or persuading him to stop.
- Write the script of a difficult conversation you have had with your parents.
- Imagine that you have to break some bad news to an adult you know well. You have decided to do it by letter. Write the letter.
- Imagine that you have witnessed a terrible accident. Write a report of it for your local radio station describing what you saw.