
INTERNATIONAL GCSE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Literary Non-fiction and Composition

Monday 25 October 2021

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an Oxford International AQA Examinations 8-page Answer Book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your Answer Book.
- Answer **all** questions from **Section A**. Answer **one** question from **Section B**.
- Write your answers in the Answer Book provided.
- Do all rough work in your Answer Book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**:
30 marks are awarded for communication and organisation;
10 marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Advice

- You should spend about 1 hour on **Section A** and about 1 hour on **Section B**.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

Section A

Answer **all** questions in this section.
You should spend about 1 hour on this section.

In the following passage, the writer is travelling with some experienced fishermen, including Danny Moses and Baptista, on a trip to try and catch a sailfish in India.

Read **lines 1 to 10** and answer **Question 1**.

Like all fishermen, Danny Moses best remembers the one that got away. 1

A few years ago, Moses was fishing on the Angria Bank, a huge submerged coral reef, more than a hundred kilometres from his home state of Goa. Around three in the afternoon, Moses' float suddenly popped. 'The fish bit and then it just kept diving.' Moses remembers.

After a few minutes, the fish changed its battle plan. Rocketing to the surface, it performed a complete somersault at some distance from the boat; only when it repeated the cartwheel, did Moses recognize it was a sailfish, one of the most elusive, mighty catches of the deep-sea fisherman. 'We could see the hook snagged at the corner of its mouth,' he says. 'It was shaking its head so violently that the rod was whipping about from side to side – thaap! thaap! thaap!' 5 10

Question 1

0	1
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 What do you learn about the behaviour of the sailfish?

[5 marks]

Now read **lines 11 to 24** and answer **Question 2**.

The sailfish fought Moses every second of the ninety minutes he took to reel it closer to his boat. 'It was seven or eight feet long, and probably fifty kilogrammes in weight. Its fin alone was two-and-a-half feet high,' he says. 11

But sometimes, Moses admits, the size of the fish can freeze you. When the sailfish was three feet from the boat, Moses found himself staring right into its rolling, furious eyes. 'He was going gold and purple with rage, and these huge black bands were running down his side,' he says. 'The sailfish's bill is like a razor – you put your hand out, and you might get it sliced off. That was the dilemma.' And in that moment of indecision, Moses panicked. 'I decided not to reach out.' 15

It takes a lot to push Moses into a panic. He is a big man with powerful arms and shoulders, and like many Goans, he has been a fisherman for almost all of his life. But on that day, the sailfish froze Moses. 'I've tried to justify it to myself so many times since then,' he says. 'Maybe at the time, I was still a little unfamiliar when it came to sailfish. I failed. There's no two ways about that.' 20 24

Question 2

0	2
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 Explain why Moses panics at the sight of the sailfish.

[7 marks]

Now read **lines 25 to 44** and answer **Question 3**.

Moses' adversary wasn't even particularly a monster. A really hefty sailfish can weigh as much 25
as a hundred kilogrammes and stretch over three-and-a-half metres from sword-like bill to
muscular tail. On its back, like the mainsail of a sailboat, is a black, ribbed dorsal fin,
sometimes taller even than the body's own width. 'When you spot one, it's a real sight,
particularly in the dark,' Moses tells me. 'You just see the head and the bill first. Then, under
the boat's lights, you can see through the water, which is as clear as glass, its fin begins to 30
unfold and rise ominously.'

All that monstrous bulk can also move frighteningly fast. In the 1920s, a series of experiments
attempted to put a number on a sailfish's speed by measuring the length of fishing line it pulled
from a reel. The stopwatch clicked into action, and in three seconds, the sailfish ran away with 35
ninety metres of line. That brings its top clocked speed in the region of 110 kilometres per hour
and makes it the fastest fish in the ocean. Approaching its fastest pace, the sailfish folds its
sail down flat into a groove along its back, like a captain stowing his canvas and starting up the
outboard motor.

Even more spectacularly, the sailfish can rapidly change colour, going from its usual dull gray 40
to a regal mix of shimmering silver, blue, purple and gold. On its skin, cells called
melanophores can make themselves transparent. Underneath, like a buried vein of precious
gems, is another layer of cells named iridophores, which break and reflect light into an
explosion of colours. This neat prismatic trick explains the local name for the sailfish: the *mor*
maach, or the 'peacock fish'. 44

Question 3

0	3
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 How does the writer use language to create a picture of the sailfish for the reader?

[10 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Now read **lines 45 to 68** and answer **Question 4**.

Baptista, a grandfatherly man who used to be an executive in New Delhi, retired and returned to Mumbai with the express purpose of spending his days fishing. 45

It was Baptista who first told me about the sailfish, and about its very precise annual visit to the Indian coastline. For much of the year, the sailfish is found in deeper seas, or reefs like the Angria Bank, which is at least twenty metres deep. With their threatening profiles, the sailfish will often herd terrified sardines into a dense cloud and then batter their prey into submission with their long bills. It's a complex, almost military, method of securing dinner. 50

When the skies cleared, we headed down the Konkan Coast, to a little town between Mumbai and Goa. I'm going to call it Xanadu, because fishermen are obsessively secretive about the location of their favourite waters, and because Baptista knew from a previous trip that Xanadu's coast was a rich mine for sailfish. This habit of secrecy is as old as fishing itself. 'We don't even publish our trip photos,' Baptista said, 'because you can figure out where it's been taken from the view in the background.' 55

Baptista discovered Xanadu last year, when he was poring over an image of the coast, looking for promising estuarial waters. 'We came here last year, but we weren't exactly welcomed by the local fishermen,' Baptista said. 'We had to work to get friendly with these guys. But we're regulars now.' 60

At false dawn, a little before six in the morning, Baptista, his adult nephews and I drove through Xanadu's woods and its clustered hamlets of fishing communities, all already wide awake.

Tatters of fog hung over the coast, filtering the dim light unevenly, the patchwork sky like something out of a Turner painting. To the east, the skies were beginning to flare with the first approach of dawn, and the air was tinged with salt and the acrid perfume of diesel. The sea went from inky, to dull quicksilver, to sparkly satin. 65
68

Question 4

0	4
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 How does the writer present fishing in India?

[8 marks]

Now read the rest of the passage and answer **Question 5** using the **WHOLE** passage from lines **1** to **94**.

Many fishermen tell proud stories of their defeats in the battle with the monster at the end of their line. In his memoir, writer Will Johnson describes the sailfish as ‘a Neptunian being unequalled in majesty and evasiveness, a watery version of the Himalayan snow leopard.’ To actually catch one is closer to luck than a feat of skill. A veteran could fish his entire life without even spotting a sailfish, and a beginner could pull one in on his very first trip to sea, as Johnson did in the Florida Keys. 69 70

Even a lost battle can often be spectacular. When it is snared, the sailfish leaps out of the water and, fully upright, propels itself across the surface solely on the strength of its thrashing tail, just as a dolphin does. The dolphin appears to act, though, with an air of self-conscious cuteness; with the sailfish, it’s all outrage and menace. Veteran fishermen call it ‘tailwalking,’ and they will tell stories – often ones that sound, quite literally, incredible – of how a sailfish tailwalked around their boat for an hour or more. 75 80

So luminous is the prestige attached to catching a sailfish, that any claim of having landed one can be met with automatic suspicion and doubt. The Sailfish Cup, held in Miami every year, offers a prize of one hundred thousand dollars to the team that catches and releases the most sailfish over two days, and teams must submit video recordings of each catch. What is unusual is the subsequent stipulation: ‘All winning teams must pass a lie-detector test. Refusal to take the test will result in disqualification.’ In Miami, the sailfish has to be earned twice over, with the rod and then with the lie-detector; and the second test of nerves is just as trying as the first. 85 94

At half past noon, we called off the great sailfish hunt. When the boat slid into position at a roughly improvised dock, Baptista stood silently for a few moments. Then he shook himself out of his reverie and said: ‘They’re saying the water is still cold at the lower depths. Maybe that’s the reason the sailfish didn’t bite.’ But he didn’t seem convinced himself. In return, I could only offer him the fisherman’s eternal consolation – that the sailfish hunt would probably turn out all right next year. 94

Now think about the **whole** passage and answer **Question 5**.

Question 5

0 5 What do you learn from the **whole** passage about catching sailfish?

Support your answer with reference to the **whole** of the passage.

[10 marks]

Section B

Answer **one** question in this section.

You should spend about 1 hour on this section.

Remember to:

- spend time thinking about the question and planning your ideas
- organise your ideas into paragraphs
- communicate clearly
- spend 5 minutes checking and editing your writing.

Either**Question 6**

0	6
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Describe a time when you experienced a moment of panic and/or excitement.

[40 marks]**Or****Question 7**

0	7
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'The battles you lose are as important as the ones that you win'. Discuss.

[40 marks]**Or****Question 8**

0	8
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Write a story with the title, 'The one that got away'.

[40 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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