



16 Plus

Paper [4]

English

Total marks: [100]

Time allowed: 60 minutes

Information for candidates

- You have 60 minutes.
- Dictionaries are not allowed.
- You are advised to spend 35 minutes on section one (including 5 minutes reading time), and 25 minutes on section two.
- There are 100 marks available.

Full name _____

Section One: Analytical Essay

This is an extract from the 19th century traveller Isabella Bird's diaries. She is travelling in what is now modern-day Iran. Read the passage and answer the question which follows.

Passing through the rift in the Dukkani-Daoud range which has led to this digression, we entered an ascending valley between the range through which we had passed and some wild mountains covered with snow, which were then actively engaged in brewing a storm. Farther on there was irrigation and cultivation, and then the wretched village of Pai Tak, and the ruins of a bridge. There, the people told us, we must halt, as the caravanserai at the next place was already full, and we plunged about in the snow and mud looking for a hovel in which to take shelter, but decided to risk going on, and shortly began the ascent of the remarkable pass known as "The Gates of Zagros," on the ancient highway between Babylonia and Media, by which, in a few hours, the mountain barrier of Zagros is crossed, and the plain of Kirrind, a part of the great Iranian plateau, is reached.

This great road, which zigzags steeply up the pass, is partly composed of smoothed boulders and partly of natural rock, somewhat dressed, and much worn by the continual passage of shod animals. It is said to be much like a torrent bed, but the snow was lying heavily upon it, filling up its inequalities. Dwarf oaks, hawthorn, ash, and other scrub find root-hold in every crevice. All that may be ugly was draped in pure white, and looking back from the surrounding glitter, the view of low ranges lying in indigo gloom was very striking. On the ascent there is a remarkable arch of great blocks of white marble, with a vaulted recess, called the "Tak-i-Girreh," "the arch holding the road," which gives the popular name of Gardan-i-Tak-i-Girreh (the pass of Tak-i-Girreh) to the ascent, though the geographers call it Akabah-i-Holwan (the defile of Holwan).

After the deep mud of the earlier part of the march it was a pleasure to ride through pure, deep, powdery snow, and to find the dirt of the village of Myan Tak, a Kurdish hamlet situated on a mountain torrent among steep hills and small trees, covered with this radiant mantle. The elevation of the pass is 4630 feet, but Myan Tak is at a lower altitude an hour farther on.

The small and ruinous caravanserai was really full of caravans detained by the snowstorm, and we lodged in a Kurdish house, typical of the style of architecture common among the settled tribes. Within a wide doorway without a door, high enough for a loaded mule to enter, is a very large room, with a low, flat mud roof, supported on three rows of misshapen trunks of trees, with their branches cut off about a foot from the stem, all black and shiny with smoke. Mud and rubble platforms, two feet high, run along one side and one end, and on the end one there is a clay, beehive-shaped fireplace, but no chimney. Under this platform the many fowls are shut in at night by a stone at the hole by which they enter. Within this room is a perfectly dark stable of great size. Certainly forty mules, besides asses and oxen, were lodged in it, and the overflow shared the living-room with a number of Kurds, katirgis, servants, dogs, soldiers, and Europeans. The furniture consisted of guns and swords hanging on the walls.

The owner is an old Kurd with some handsome sons with ruddy complexions and auburn hair. The big house is the patriarchal roof, where the patriarch, his sons, their wives and

children, and their animals, dwell together. The women, however, had all been got rid of somehow. The old Kurd made a great fire on the dais, wood being plentiful, and crouched over it. My bed was pitched near it, and enclosed by some reed screens. With chairs and a table, with routes, maps, writing materials, and a good lantern upon it, an excellent dinner of soup and a leg of mutton, cooked at a bonfire in the middle of the floor, and the sight of all the servants and katirgis lying round it, warm and comfortable, and the knowledge that we were above the mud, the clouds of blinding smoke which were the only drawback scarcely affected the cheerfulness and comfort of the blazing, unstinted fire. The doorway gave not only ample ventilation but a brilliant view of snow, and of myriads of frosty stars.

It was infinitely picturesque, with the fitful firelight falling on the uncouth avenues of blackened tree-stumps, on big dogs, on mild-eyed ox faces and long ass ears, on turbaned Indian heads, and on a confused crowd of Turks, Kurds, and Persians, some cooking, some sleeping, some smoking, while from the black depth beyond a startling bray of an ass or the abortive shriek of a mule occasionally proceeded, or a stray mule created a commotion by rushing in from the snow outside.

I slept comfortably, till I was awakened early by various country sounds—the braying of an ass into my ear (for I was within a few inches of the stable), the crowing of cocks, and some hens picking up crumbs upon my bed. The mules were loaded in the living-room. The mercury was only 26° at 9 a.m., and under cloudless sunshine the powdery snow glittered and crackled. There were difficulties ahead, we heard. The road heavily blocked with snow was only just open, and the Persian post, which should have passed forty-eight hours before, had not been heard of, showing that the snow is very deep farther on.

How does Bird convey the atmosphere of the places in which she is travelling and staying overnight? (50 marks)

Section Two: Creative Writing

Imagine the next part of Isabella Bird's diary has been lost. Write the next part yourself, including:

- An unusual encounter with an animal
- An enjoyable OR unenjoyable meal
- Description of the weather

There are up to 50 marks available for your piece of writing.

Section One: Mark Scheme

To mark an essay at this level, first decide on a band which matches the description, then decide whether the writing is at the top of bottom of that band.

| Band/ marks | Description |
|-----------------|--|
| 6 – 45-50 marks | A critical response with a well-structured argument which explores themes and ideas and makes sound conclusions. The candidate uses quotations and explains their effect on the reader. There is specific subject terminology used such as metaphor, personification etc. Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) is almost always accurate. |
| 5 – 40-45 marks | This response will use a good range of quotations and subject terminology but might not always be accurate in terms of the effect on the reader. There is some discussion of atmosphere but this is not sustained throughout. Some brief themes and overall ideas will be explored. SPaG has some errors but these are infrequent. |
| 4 – 35-40 marks | A band 4 response will use some subject terminology but this might be limited to two or three occasions. There will be occasional discussion of atmosphere. There will be no overall exploration of themes or ideas, but rather a sense that the candidate sees this writing in isolation. SPaG has fairly frequent errors. |
| 3 – 30-35 marks | At this level, the candidate has achieved a pass, but they may have struggled with the timing or understanding the extract in its entirety. There will be comments on the piece but these will be undeveloped. SPaG has frequent errors. Quotations and subject terminology are present briefly. |
| 2 – 20-30 marks | This level suggests the candidate will need help in achieving well post-16 in their English studies. They make no reference to the overall ideas or themes and may have partly misunderstood the extract. There is some use of quotations and some indication they may just need more time. SPaG has many errors but the response can still be understood. |

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| 1 – under 20 marks | A brief response which indicates the candidate has misunderstood the extract and has made some incorrect comments on it. This level is indicative of someone who is not suitable for post-16 study of English. There will be frequent errors of SPaG which make the writing difficult to understand. |
| 0 | Nothing written/ nothing to mark. |

Section Two: Mark Scheme

To mark a piece of writing at this level, first decide on a band which matches the description, then decide whether the writing is at the top of bottom of that band.

| Band/ marks | Description |
|-----------------|---|
| 6 – 45-50 marks | An outstanding piece of writing which achieves the aims suggested: the reader has a clear sense of direction and of the journey, and this is accompanied by ambitious vocabulary and punctuation, alongside high-level phrasing and challenging concepts. Spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) is almost always accurate. |
| 5 – 40-45 marks | An excellent piece of writing which mostly maintains a clear picture of the next stage of the journey and allows the reader to imagine they are present. Sometimes there are lapses in focus and clarity. There may be some use of imagery but this is not present throughout. SPaG has some errors but these are infrequent. |
| 4 – 35-40 marks | The candidate has tried to create a continuation of the diary but this may be basic or difficult to understand. There may be some unusual events which are hard to believe, suggesting a lack of imagination. Largely, the piece is written in a straightforward, undemanding style. SPaG has fairly frequent errors. |
| 3 – 30-35 marks | The candidate has achieved a pass, and has written a piece which is understandable and uses basic, straightforward English throughout. SPaG has frequent errors. The journey may be described in quite basic terms, and may not be given much detail. |

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| 2 – 20-30 marks | This candidate has not passed the exam, and has written a response which does not address the bullet points in the question. There is some use of narrative but the story is hard to follow and may contain errors of chronology or character. SPaG has many errors but the response can still be understood. |
| 1 – under 20 marks | A short response which appears to be about travel but may have been a previously memorised piece of writing. There will be frequent errors of SPaG which make the writing difficult to understand. |
| 0 | Nothing written/ nothing to mark. |

