

## AQA GCSE Language Paper 2: Past Questions

Year	Source A	Source B	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5
<b>Theme: Transport (speech)</b>							
June 2023	<b><u>20th Century literary non-fiction</u></b> One's Company by Peter Fleming An extract from a travel book, published in 1933	<b><u>19th Century non-fiction</u></b> Records of a Girlhood by Fanny Kemble An extract from a letter, published in 1878	Source A Lines 1-7	The writers in Source A and B are travelling on different types of trains. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the differences between the two trains.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe the train crash?	Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives about their experiences of travelling on a train.	Cars are convenient, comfortable and save time. However, we need to use them less by making public transport such as trains, trams and buses cheaper, more reliable and easier to access.  <b>Write a speech to be given at a meeting of your local council in which you argue your point of view on this statement.</b>
<b>Theme: Science/sleep (letter)</b>							
Nov 2022	<b><u>21st Century non-fiction</u></b> How I beat my insomnia An extract from an article written in 2016 by journalist Arifa Akbar	<b><u>19th Century literary non-fiction</u></b> A sleepless night An extract from an article written in 1872 by journalist Fanny Fern	Source A Lines 1-6	In both sources, the writers try various ways to get to sleep, most of which fail. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the different ways the writers try, but fail, to get to sleep.</b>	Source B How does the writer use language to describe the mosquitoes and their impact?	Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on their experiences of sleep and sleeplessness.	'Scientists say that teenagers are not like adults; they learn and socialise differently and need sleep at different times. Education needs a radical re-think to meet the needs of students.'  <b>Write a letter to the Minister for Education explaining your point of view on this statement.</b>
<b>Theme: Holidays/camping (article)</b>							
June 2022	<b><u>21st Century literary non-fiction</u></b> The Tent, The Bucket and Me by Emma Kennedy An extract from an autobiography, published in 2009	<b><u>19th Century non-fiction</u></b> In the Wilderness by Charles Dudley Warner An extract from a book, published in 1878	Source A Lines 1-9	The writers in Source A and Source B stay in very different camping sites. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the differences between the two camping sites.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe the rain and the storm?	Compare how the writers convey their different thoughts and feelings about camping experiences.	'Holidays don't need to be faraway and expensive. They just need to give people a break from everyday life and the chance to relax.'  <b>Write an article for a magazine in which you argue your point of view on this statement</b>
<b>Theme: Society (article)</b>							
June/Nov 2021	<b><u>20th century literary non-fiction</u></b> Clive James' autobiography published in 1980. He writes about going to the cinema in Australia in the 1940s	<b><u>19th century non-fiction</u></b> A magazine article published in 1868. The writer explains how sweets were made and decorated in Victorian England.	Source A Lines 1-10	The children at the cinema in Source A and the children at the factory in Source B have different experiences of childhood. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the different experiences of the children.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe eating Fantail sweets?	Compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to sweets	'Our addiction to cheap clothes and fast fashion means young people in poorer countries have to work in terrible conditions to make them. We must change our attitude to buying clothes now.'  <b>Write an article for a magazine or website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.</b>
<b>Theme: Adventure (article)</b>							
Nov 2020	<b><u>20th Century literary non-fiction</u></b> Touching the Void An extract from an autobiographical account by Joe Simpson published in 1988	<b><u>19th Century non-fiction</u></b> Climbing the Meije An extract from a letter written by explorer Gertrude Bell in 1899	Source A Lines 1-4	Both writers are accompanied by another person on their adventure: Simon in Source A, and Marius in Source B. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the differences between the two companions, Simon and Marius</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe how he feels?	Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on their adventures in the mountains	'People have become obsessed with travelling ever further and faster. However, travel is expensive, dangerous, damaging and a foolish waste of time!'  <b>Write an article for a news website in which you argue your point of view on this statement.</b>

Theme: Animals (article)							
Nov 2019	<b>20th Century literary non-fiction</b> Shooting an Elephant An extract from an essay by George Orwell, written in 1936	<b>19th Century non-fiction</b> Wild Animals in Captivity An extract from a book by Abraham Bartlett, published in 1898	Source A Lines 1-5	Both sources describe how the elephants behave. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the similar behaviour of the elephants.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe the crowd of people?	Compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to the elephants	People protest about the cruelty of keeping animals in captivity, but they seem happy enough to eat meat, keep pets and visit zoos. All animals should be free! <b>Write an article for a magazine in which you explain your point of view on this statement.</b>
Theme: Travel (letter)							
June 2019	<b>21st Century non-fiction</b> The Crossing An extract from James Cracknell and Ben Fogle's autobiographical account of crossing the Atlantic, published in 2006	<b>19th Century literary non-fiction</b> Idle Days in Patagonia An extract from W H Hudson's travel writing, published in 1893	Source A Lines 1-12	The writers in Source A and Source B are travelling on very different types of boat. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the different boats.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe the power of the sea?	Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives and feelings about their experiences at sea.	'It is people who have extraordinary skill, courage and determination who deserve to be famous, not those who have good looks or lots of money or behave badly.' <b>Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper in which you argue your point of view in response to this statement.</b>
Theme: Transport (letter)							
Nov 2018	<b>21st Century non-fiction</b> All cyclists fear bad drivers An article published in The Guardian newspaper in 2016	<b>19th Century literary non-fiction</b> On A Bicycle In The Streets Of London An article published in a magazine in 1896	Source A Lines 1-10	Both sources describe the similar ways in which drivers behave. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the similar behaviour of the drivers.</b>	Source B How does the writer use language to describe her first experiences of cycling?	Compare how the writers convey their similar perspectives on cycling in the city.	'Cars are noisy, dirty, smelly and downright dangerous. They should be banned from all town and city centres, allowing people to walk and cycle in peace.' <b>Write a letter to the Minister for Transport arguing your point of view on this statement.</b>
Theme: Sport (article)							
June 2018	<b>20th Century literary non-fiction</b> Morning Glass An extract from Mike Doyle's autobiography, published in 1993.	<b>19th Century non-fiction</b> The Hawaiian Archipelago An extract from a letter written by Isabella Bird, published in 1875	Source A Lines 1-13	Both sources describe the types of board used for surfing. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of what you understand about the different boards used by the surfers.</b>	Source B How does the writer use language to describe the surfers and the sea?	Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives on surfing	'All sport should be fun, fair and open to everyone. These days, sport seems to be more about money, corruption and winning at any cost.' <b>Write an article for a newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.</b>
Theme: Education (speech)							
Nov 2017	<b>20th Century literary non-fiction</b> The Other Side of the Dale, An extract from a book by Gervase Phinn, published in 1998.	<b>19th Century non-fiction</b> The Ragged School An extract from a diary written by a teacher, published in 1849.	Source A Lines 1-10	The children at the primary school and the ragged school behave very differently. Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of the differences between the behaviour of the children at the two schools.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe Sister Brendan?	Compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to the two schools	'Education is not just about which school you go to, or what qualifications you gain; it is also about what you learn from your experiences outside of school.' <b>Write a speech for your school or college Leavers' Day to explain what you think makes a good education.</b>
Theme: Childhood (article)							
June 2017	<b>21st C non-fiction</b> How can my son be a year old already? by Stuart Heritage, A newspaper article from The Guardian	<b>19th C literary non-fiction</b> Boy Lost An extract from a Victorian newspaper in which a mother writes about her son.	Source A Lines 1-17	Use details from both sources to <b>write a summary of the different activities the boy in Source A enjoys and the boy in Source B enjoyed when he was young.</b>	Source A How does the writer use language to describe his son?	Compare how the writers convey their different perspectives and feelings about their children growing up.	'Parents today are over-protective. They should let their children take part in adventurous, even risky, activities to prepare them for later life.' <b>Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you argue for or against this statement</b>

	newspaper published in 2016.						
--	---------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--