

EngLangII

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UNIVERSITY OF LONDON
GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF EDUCATION
EXAMINATION

SUMMER 1968

Ordinary Level

ENGLISH LANGUAGE II

Two hours

Answer BOTH questions.

Answers must be presented in a clear and orderly manner.

1. The following passage describes the conditions in which women worked in coal mines, as revealed by the official investigation of 1842. *Using the information given in the passage write a report describing:*

first, the nature of the work the women were mainly engaged in;

second, the dangers and difficulties of their work; and

third, the conditions of their work, including their hours of employment, their food, and the physical effects of the work on the women.

(The evidence given by the three women is relevant and can be drawn on as typical, but your report should be an accurate *general statement*. It should not exceed 160 words in length, and should be written in correct and concise English. Words and short expressions from the passage may be retained *when they cannot be replaced without loss of accuracy or brevity*, but do not copy out long expressions and sentences.)

The task which employed the greatest number of women and young people of both sexes was 'hurrying', that is, conveying the coal along subterranean passages to the bottom of the shaft. In the better pits the waggons were mounted on wheels, and were pushed forward on small iron railways. In the thin seams and the small pits with little capital the 'hurrier' buckled round the waist a broad leather belt, to which was attached a ring and about four feet of chain which passed between the legs and hooked on to a sledge shod with iron.

The laboriousness of 'hurrying' varied considerably in different pits. The size and weight of the waggons, the depth and condition of the passages, and the state of the air, all affected the degree of exertion. Weight was often determined by the height of the roads. In thin seams the lowness of the roof prevented a weight of more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweight being pulled; sledges were commonly loaded with from $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{1}{2}$ hundredweight, and wheeled waggons varied from 5 to 10 hundredweight with an average of about 8 hundredweight. The danger and difficulty of 'hurrying' was intensified by the incline of the roads, which followed the rise and dip of the seam. Sometimes the loaded wagon had to be pushed up a steep incline, but this was preferable to the risks and danger of a steep descent when the 'hurrier' might be knocked over and crushed. Rails were allowed to fall into such bad repair that the waggons were constantly derailed, and the exertion required to replace them was greater than that of 'hurrying' itself. Falls from the roof were left to impede the roads, which in bad pits were constantly waterlogged.

The evidence given by some of the women themselves shows more clearly than any description what 'hurrying' entailed. Ann Eggle, a 'hurrier', aged eighteen, in the West Riding, said: 'We go at four in the morning, and sometimes at half-past four. We leave work after four in the evening, sometimes at five. We work the whole time except for an hour for dinner, and sometimes we haven't time to eat. The work is far too hard for me; the sweat runs off me all over sometimes. I am very tired at night. Sometimes when we get home at night we have not power to wash us, and then we go to bed.' Elizabeth Day, at Barnsley, had 'to hurry up hill with the loaded waggons, quite as much up as down . . . I have been lamed in my ankle, and strained in my back; it caused a great lump to rise in my ankle-bone once. We go to work between five and six. We stop an hour for dinner at 12; we generally have bread and a bit of fat for dinner, and some of them a sup of beer; that's all. We get out from four to five in the evening; so that it will be eleven hours before we get out. We drink the water that runs through the pit.' Betty Harris, a woman of thirty-seven, described her work in a pit at Little Bolton, where the girdle and chain were still used. 'I have a belt round my waist, and a chain passing between my legs, and I go on my hands and feet. The pit is very wet where I work, and the water comes over our clog-tops always, and I have seen it up to my thighs; it rains in at the roof terribly; my clothes are wet through almost all day long.'

2. Read the following passage (which for your convenience has been divided into three sections) and then answer the questions on it. In the passage the boy, Edwin, has just left his school for the last time.

A It was a breezy Friday in July 1872. The canal, which ran north and south, reflected a blue and white sky. Towards the bridge, from the north came a long narrow canal-boat roofed with tarpaulins; and towards the bridge, from the south came a similar craft, sluggishly creeping. The towing-path was a morass of sticky brown mud, and thirty yards in front of each boat an unhappy skeleton of a horse floundered its best in the quagmire. The honest endeavour of one of the animals received a frequent tonic from a bare-legged girl of seven who heartily curled a whip about its crooked large-jointed legs. 5

Edwin, with his elbows on the stone parapet of the bridge, stared uninterested at the spectacle of the child, the whip, and the skeleton. His mind was preoccupied with grave and heavy matters. He had left school that day, and what his eyes saw as he leant on the bridge was not a willing beast and a gladdened infant, but the puzzling world and the advance guard of its problems bearing down on him. Slim, gawky, untidy, fair, with his worn clothes, and slung over his shoulders in a bursting satchel the last load of his school-books, and on his bright, rough hair a shapeless cap whose lining protruded behind, he had the extraordinary wistful look of innocence and simplicity which marks most boys of sixteen. It seemed rather a shame, it seemed even tragic, that this naive, simple creature, with his straightforward and friendly eyes so eager to believe appearances, this creature immaculate of worldly experience, must soon be transformed into a man, wary, incredulous, detracting. 10 15 20 25

This picture of Edwin as a wistful innocent would have made Edwin laugh. He had been seven years at school, and considered himself a hardened sort of brute, free of illusions. And he sometimes thought that he could judge the world better than most neighbouring mortals. 30

B 'Hello! The Sunday!' he murmured, without turning his eyes. Another boy, a little younger and shorter, had somehow got on to the bridge, and was leaning with his back against the parapet which supported Edwin's elbows. His name was Charlie Orgreave, but at school he was invariably called 'the Sunday' - not 'Sunday', but 'the Sunday' - and nobody could authoritatively explain how he had come by the nickname. Its origin was lost in the prehistoric ages of his childhood. He and Edwin had been chums for several years. Their fellowship meant chiefly that they spent a great deal of time together, instinctively and unconsciously enjoying each other's mere presence, and that in public arguments they always reinforced each other, 35 40

whatever the degree of intellectual dishonesty this entailed.

'I'll bet you mine gets to the bridge first,' said the Sunday. 45

Edwin slowly turned round, and perceived that the object which the Sunday had appropriated as 'his' was the other canal-boat, advancing from the south.

'Horse or boat?' asked Edwin.

'Boat's nose, of course,' said the Sunday. 50

'Well,' said Edwin, having surveyed the unconscious competitors, and counting on the aid of the whipping child, 'I don't mind laying you ten. But it's not fair. You've got a rare start on me.'

'Rats!' said the Sunday, with finality. 55

C He began to outline a scheme, in which perpendicular expectoration figured, for accurately deciding the winner, and a complicated argument might have ensued about this, had it not soon become apparent that Edwin's boat was going to be handsomely beaten, despite the joyous efforts of the little child. The horse that would die but would not give up was only saved from total subsidence at every step by his indomitable if aged spirit. Edwin handed over the ten marbles even before the other boat had arrived at the bridge. 60

'Here,' he said. 'And you may as well have these, too,' adding five more to the ten - all he possessed. Edwin looked at them half regretfully as they lay in the Sunday's hands. They seemed prodigious wealth in those hands, and he felt somewhat as a condemned man might feel who bequeaths his jewels on the scaffold. Then there was a rattle, and a tumour grew out larger on the Sunday's thigh. The winning boat crawled under the bridge. 65 70

Answer the following questions in your own words as far as possible. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) should be answered *very briefly*, and in these answers complete sentences are not necessary. (Other questions should be answered in complete and correct sentences.)

From Section A:

- *(a) Give in a single word or short phrase the meaning of *two* of the following words *as used in the passage*:
parapet (l. 11); gawky (l. 17); protruded (l. 20); naive (l. 23).
- *(b) Explain *two* of the following expressions:
(i) 'floundered its best' (l. 7);
(ii) 'received a frequent tonic' (ll. 8-9);
(iii) 'immaculate of worldly experience' (l. 25).
- (c) (i) Describe briefly *in your own words* Edwin's mood as he leans over the bridge.
(ii) What does the expression 'the advance guard' (l. 16) suggest about Edwin's attitude to the problems of the adult world?
- (d) State *in your own words* the differences between Edwin's ideas about himself and the author's view of him.

From Section B:

- (e) Explain what is meant by the statements:
(i) that no one could explain 'authoritatively' the origin of the Sunday's nickname (ll. 37-38);
(ii) that its origin was lost in 'the prehistoric ages of his childhood' (ll. 38-39).
- (f) What does the author mean by saying that there was some 'intellectual dishonesty' in the public behaviour of the two boys (l. 44)?
- *(g) Explain *in your own words* the following expressions:
(i) 'the unconscious competitors' (ll. 51-52);
(ii) 'I don't mind laying you ten' (ll. 52-53).
- (h) What are the factors that Edwin takes into account in accepting the bet?

From Section C:

- *(i) Give in a single word or short phrase the meaning of *two* of the following words *as used in the passage*:
complicated (l. 58); ensued (l. 58); handsomely (l. 60); prodigious (l. 68).
- (j) What, do you think, was the Sunday's scheme for deciding the winner of the race?
- (k) Explain *in your own words* both the following expressions:
(i) 'was only saved from total subsidence at every step by his indomitable if aged spirit' (ll. 61-63);
(ii) 'a tumour grew out larger on the Sunday's thigh' (ll. 70-71).

From the whole passage:

- (l) Edwin surrenders not only ten but all his marbles.
(i) Why in your opinion does he do this?
(ii) Why does the author say that Edwin felt like a condemned man bequeathing his jewels on the scaffold?
- (m) Using not more than 40 words, describe *in your own words* the relationship between the two boys, Edwin and Charlie ('the Sunday').