

**Pearson Edexcel**  
International Advanced Level

# English Language

International Advanced Level

**Unit 3: Crafting Language (Writing)**

Wednesday 14 June 2017 – Morning

**Source Booklet**

Paper Reference

**WEN03/01**

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### Topic: The Beatles

The following texts all deal with the British music group The Beatles who formed in 1960 and disbanded in 1970.

#### Text A

This is an extract taken from the [allmusic.com](http://allmusic.com) website. It explains the band's origins.

More than any other top group, The Beatles' success was very much a case of the whole being greater than the sum of its parts. Their phenomenal cohesion was due in large degree to most of the group having known each other and played together in Liverpool for about five years before they began to have hit records. Guitarist and teenage rebel John Lennon got hooked on rock & roll in the mid-'50s, and formed a band, the Quarrymen, at his high school. Around mid-1957, the Quarrymen were joined by another guitarist, Paul McCartney, nearly two years Lennon's junior. A bit later they were joined by another guitarist, George Harrison, a friend of McCartney. The Quarrymen would change line-ups constantly in the late '50s, eventually reducing to the core trio of guitarists, who'd proven themselves to be the best musicians and most personally compatible individuals within the band.

The Quarrymen changed their name to the Silver Beatles in 1960, quickly dropping the "Silver" to become just The Beatles. Lennon's art college friend Stuart Sutcliffe joined on bass, but finding a permanent drummer was a vexing problem until Pete Best joined in the summer of 1960. He successfully auditioned for the combo just before they left for a several-month stint in Hamburg, Germany.

Hamburg was The Beatles' baptism by fire. Playing gruelling sessions for hours on end, the group was forced to expand its repertoire, tighten up and invest its show with enough manic energy to keep the rowdy crowds satisfied. When they returned to Liverpool at the end of 1960, the band – formerly also-rans on the exploding Liverpoolian "beat" scene – were suddenly the most exciting act on the local circuit. They consolidated their following in 1961 with constant gigging in the Merseyside area, most often at the legendary Cavern Club, the incubator of the Merseybeat sound.

They also returned for engagements in Hamburg during 1961, although Sutcliffe dropped out of the band that year to concentrate on his art school studies. McCartney took over on bass, Harrison settled in as lead guitarist, and Lennon had rhythm guitar; everyone sang. In mid-1961, The Beatles (minus Sutcliffe) made their first recordings in Germany.

**Text B**

This text provides details on The Beatles' total worldwide album sales up to 2014.

<b>Statistic Verification</b>	
Source: RIAA, Apple Records, EMI	
Research Date: 2.19.2014	
Let's not kid ourselves, The Beatles were the biggest band on the planet, period. If you disagree just let the stats below do the talking. Over 2 billion albums sold! Come on! How many people have sold 2 billion of anything let alone recorded music? Their recording studio may as well have been a money printing mint.	
<b>The Beatles Total Album Sales Statistics</b>	<b>Data</b>
Total Albums Sold	2,303,500,000
Total Albums Sold on iTunes	585,000
Total Singles Sold on iTunes	2.8 Million
<b>Sales By Available Markets</b>	
United States	209.1 Million
Canada	13.6 Million
United Kingdom	7.5 Million
Germany	7.3 Million
France	3.1 Million
Australia	2.8 Million
Japan	1.9 Million
Argentina	1.6 Million
Brazil	600,000
Sweden	584,000
Austria	570,000
Switzerland	450,000
<b>Beatles Billboard* Chart Statistics</b>	
Total weeks on chart	1,278 weeks
Total number ones	15
Total weeks at number one	175 weeks
Album with longest time spent at number one ("Please Please Me" released in 1963)	30 weeks

**Glossary**

\*Billboard – an American music magazine which provides information about the U.S. music charts

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## Text C

**This 2014 text, taken from the newspaper *USA Today*, reports what five Beatles experts thought was the band's best album.**

*Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, lauded for its sonic sophistication, sweeping diversity and experimentalism, stands out in The Beatles' catalogue as their most historic and celebrated album. But is it their finest? After being ranked first among The Beatles discs and at or near the top of best album lists for decades, it has been losing ground to *Revolver*, long gunning for that position.

*Sgt. Pepper* placed first in a 2003 *Rolling Stone* poll to determine the 500 greatest albums of all time. *Revolver* was No. 3, *Rubber Soul* No. 5 and *The Beatles* (more familiarly known to fans as *The White Album*) No. 10. In a 2011 *Rolling Stone* reader poll ranking The Beatles albums, *Revolver* prevailed by two votes over *Abbey Road*. *The Beatles* ranked third, with *Sgt. Pepper* fourth.

In the 1994 book *All Time Top 1000 Albums*, *Sgt. Pepper* was No. 1 and *Revolver* was No. 5. By the 2000 edition, *Revolver* held the top spot.

And on the fan site BestEverAlbums.com, *Revolver* is the top Beatles album and third among all albums, while *Sgt. Pepper* is third and fifth, respectively. *Sgt. Pepper* leads the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's Definitive 200 albums list. *Revolver* crowns Q magazine's list of 100 greatest British albums ever.

### 'RUBBER SOUL'

Martin Lewis, Beatles scholar who worked on *The Beatles Anthology*:

"*Revolver* has a metallic, hard edge to it," says Lewis, who prefers 1965's *Rubber Soul*.

"*Rubber Soul* has a heart and softness that's very evocative.

"Sonically, *Sgt. Pepper* is their best. There is a crispness and richness and Technicolor glow that comes off that album. It's a rich feast. But the songs are not as deeply felt and personal as songs on *Rubber Soul*.

"*Rubber Soul* is this great transition to a more sophisticated Beatles. There's warmth, emotion and a level of maturity beyond their years in songs like *In My Life*. *Rubber Soul* is their last quintessential English album. It's very Edwardian."

### 'REVOLVER'

Bill King, editor of *Beatlefan* magazine says:

1966's *Revolver* "represents the group at its musical peak". He calls it "a stylistically diverse collection of top-notch songs with sophisticated, thoughtful lyrics imaginatively arranged, recorded and performed."

The album "marked the band's transition from teen idols to musical legends," he says. It saw John Lennon master psychedelia with *She Said, She Said* and *Tomorrow Never Knows*, but it was Paul McCartney who "moved to the fore as the group's dominant songwriter" with such classics as *Eleanor Rigby* and *Here, There and Everywhere*.

And "while *Pepper* gets the credit, it was *Revolver* that sent a message to *The Beatles'* contemporaries that it wasn't necessary to stick to a hit-making formula. You could take chances and still sell records."

### **'SGT. PEPPER'**

Matt Hurwitz, Beatles historian, endorses 1967's *Sgt. Pepper* for its sublime studio ingenuity and music that is "simply magical."

"They were always pushing the boundaries of current pop-music recording craft," he says. "Every new release was awaited with excitement: What would *The Beatles* sound like this time?"

"*Sgt. Pepper* was perhaps the most highly anticipated release by any group in the 1960s. They had stopped touring and were now solely focused on recording craft. The idea of a rock album with a theme – something taken for granted today – was a cultural shock. They changed the way pop-music recordings were made forever, mainly by asking, 'What if we...?' The result was a masterpiece and an experience one never tires of."

### **'THE BEATLES' (aka 'The White Album')**

David Holmes, founder of the fan site Beatles Number 9 says that 1968's *The White Album* represents the band's highest achievement.

"Each Beatle had a chance to be himself, whereas I look at *Sgt. Pepper* and, to a slightly lesser degree, *Abbey Road* as mostly McCartney-influenced," he says.

"They shined brighter as a band, while maintaining a solo effect. It just jells nicely, like their earlier works, with just the right edginess."

### **'ABBEY ROAD'**

David Bedford, founder of the new Beatles Social Network says the band peaked with 1969's *Abbey Road*.

"The band that was falling apart went into the studio for the last time and created an incredible album that displays the song-writing skills of John, Paul and George (Harrison) on equal terms," Bedford says. "Harrison contributed some of the best Beatles songs ever recorded, with *Something* and *Here Comes the Sun*. They seemed to be in perfect harmony, yet this was the last time they would come together to make a record.

"It always makes me think: Maybe, just maybe, they could have continued releasing albums together, even if they were recording mainly on their own. But it was their last, and what a way to sign off."

## Text D

**This is an extract from the website *ultimateclassicrock.com*, published in 2015. It explains how The Beatles' career ended.**

The tale of the breakup of The Beatles is a long and, well, winding road. They had begun to implode for a while. When manager Brian Epstein passed away in 1967, the first cracks were showing. By the time of the recording of the 1968 double-record set 'The Beatles' (aka 'The White Album') things had gotten worse. The Beatles were working less and less like a band, with each member focusing on their own compositions in the studio and treating the others like sidemen.

Flash forward to early-1969 and recording sessions for what would eventually become the 'Let It Be' album. Captured forever thanks to a documentary crew, the film 'Let It Be,' released a month after their breakup, shows tensions running high and resentment building. Even though they would somehow carry on and record the much more harmonious 'Abbey Road,' the end was in sight.

After repeated clashes with new business manager Allen Klein, Paul McCartney was looking for it to end, perhaps sooner than the others. In late-1969, unbeknownst to all but a few close associates, he began work on a solo album in his home studio. A week before the album's April 17, 1970 release, the promotional material for the album contained a Q&A sheet that, in essence, said that he was leaving the group.

Sources taken/adapted from:

[www.allmusic.com](http://www.allmusic.com)  
[www.usatoday.com](http://www.usatoday.com)  
[www.ultimateclassicrock.com](http://www.ultimateclassicrock.com)

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