



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

AS Level English Language

H070/01 Exploring language

Resource Booklet

Monday 23 May 2016 – Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes



You must have:

- the Question Paper
- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- The materials in this **Resource Booklet** are for use with the questions in **Section A** and **Section B** of the Question Paper.

INFORMATION

- This document consists of **8** pages.

The material in this **Resource Booklet** relates to the questions in the Question Paper.

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Section A – Understanding language features in context

Text A

Text A is a review by the journalist and columnist Grace Dent of the first part of a Channel 4 documentary series called *Teens*, for the *i* newspaper, a concise version of the broadsheet *The Independent*. The audience for this review would be quite broad in terms of age range.

SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2015

Business as usual for twittering teens

Grace Dent

On the box

This week Grace watched...

Teens, Channel 4

Channel 4's new documentary series *Teens* dragged up many painful feelings. Primarily, that I wouldn't be 15 again, sat in my room under a thatch of crimped hair, down-wind of a joss-stick, listening to The Pixies' *Surfer Rosa* and crying because Paul Gilmer has dumped me for Joolz Robins (her with the Sun-In highlights and the riding lessons). Not even dumped me properly either. Just mumbled and then, next up, is spotted in Hammonds Park sitting with her on the Witches Hat sharing a packet of Hubba Bubba.

The one thing being a teenager had in its favour, however, was that it pre-dated social media.... Poor Jess – on the first episode of *Teens* – was a lovely, clever lower sixth-former who had got a bit emotional during a school debate. News of Jess's tears spread through the school in a volley of bleeps and bings, sub-tweets and secret messages like a forest fire. I'd love to be able to tell Jess that people eventually grow out of their joy at joining an electronic lynch-mob – the baiting and the bitching – but they don't. It is a national pastime.

Jess sat at home reading a news ticker¹ of vile nonsense deriding her sanity, her uppity manner, her weight, her prettiness, her popularity and so on. Teenagers at Jess's school – and the surrounding schools – retweeted and favourited the abuse. All she'd wanted to do was open up debate on Page Three and fight for women's equality.

[Section omitted]

One reassuring thing about *Teens* is that, despite the differences between the 1980s and now, it's mainly business as usual. Parents go on holiday and sixth formers pile over with bottles of bad booze. Things get smashed. Fags are smoked moodily. A vast amount of time is devoted to hair back-combing and spot-covering. Love affairs feel big, serious and forever, as does friendship, which is spoken of as earnestly as an Arthurian pact².

"I am being oppressed by my parents!" one girl tweeted, her human rights violated by a request to revise for her mock A-levels. Harry's parents were around my age, so to me, their reactions to his YouTube antics and phone dependency were fascinating. "If he won't do his work," Harry's mum said, her eyes smouldering with passive-aggressive³ devilment, "well, that's his business." She wasn't angry, Harry. She was just disappointed. It worked: by the end of episode one Harry was revising for eight hours a day. It was a difficult hour of television, but the kids are alright.

¹ 'news ticker' – brief summaries of news stories running beneath or beside the main picture of a TV screen

² 'Arthurian pact' – a life-and-death promise between King Arthur's knights

³ 'passive-aggressive' – forcefully resistant or strong-willed, whilst avoiding direct confrontation

Section B – Comparing and contrasting texts

Text B

Text B is a transcription taken from *Great Lives*, a series on BBC Radio 4. In this series, a celebrity chooses a famous person from the past and discusses them with the host and an expert witness. This episode, about Marie Curie, was aired on a weekday at 4.30 pm, in 2007.

Marie Curie was a celebrated scientist who worked with her husband, Pierre Curie, and discovered radium. They found that radiation could come from unstable atoms. Their discoveries are the foundation of nuclear power and of nuclear weapons. The contributors to the programme were:

Matthew Parris – Programme Host

Sarah Dry – Marie Curie's biographer

Pallab Ghosh – BBC Science Correspondent and celebrity guest

Parris: how quick were the Curies to understand the potential practical applications for instance in (.) in medicine of the radiation upon which they had stumbled

Dry: very quickly people began to think 'hm we've already seen X-rays (.) we've seen that X-rays can prove very useful in seeing inside bodies' (.) it was still quite early days for the medical applications of X-rays but that was already in people's minds that these invisible rays could be used in medical contexts and fairly soon after that people started to use radium and the gases that it emitted to try and selectively treat diseased tissues

Ghosh: but I think it's the er (.) radioactive nature the laying down of the nuclear age that was the **larger** consequence of their work and I think it was an experiment by Pierre Curie himself that measured the sheer amount of radiation that was being generated by a tiny amount of radium and when he accepted his Nobel Prize he realised what the potential was he was (.) was worried that **criminals** might misuse it but both he and Marie Curie felt that both in medical applications and in terms of er (.) its use in nuclear energy it held society more benefits than ill and it's a debate that we're having still to this day and things that I'm covering in my job

Dry: it's very interesting to read back over the statements that were made about a potential perpetual fountain of energy that could have been found in radium and in a way it is quite chilling to think back to what was to come it's hard to read the story of (.) radioactivity without thinking to what we know of (.) of the nuclear age

Ghosh: and it's an interesting echo for me because books that I was (.) reading at the time when I was six or seven were from the 50s (1) and they reinforced that message the happy atom you know stories

Parris: yes

Ghosh: you know we'd be living on the moon and that was sort of very much a driving force for me

Parris: yes

Ghosh: that I (.) I wanted to do all these wonderful things // and live on the moon

Parris: // I had pictures of Dounreay⁴//

Dry: //and that was//

Parris: // on my bedroom wall
when I was nine

Dry: At the same time of course the Curies were suffering from the effects of radiation sickness **themselves** (.) and people who worked in their labs were as well so it's a problematic thing (.) I think on the one hand we can see the tremendous hope that this new and mysterious element seemed to offer (.) but at the same time it seems that there must have been a sense of anxiety surrounding it too

⁴ 'Dounreay' – one of the first nuclear power stations, in Scotland

TRANSCRIPTION KEY

// = overlapping speech

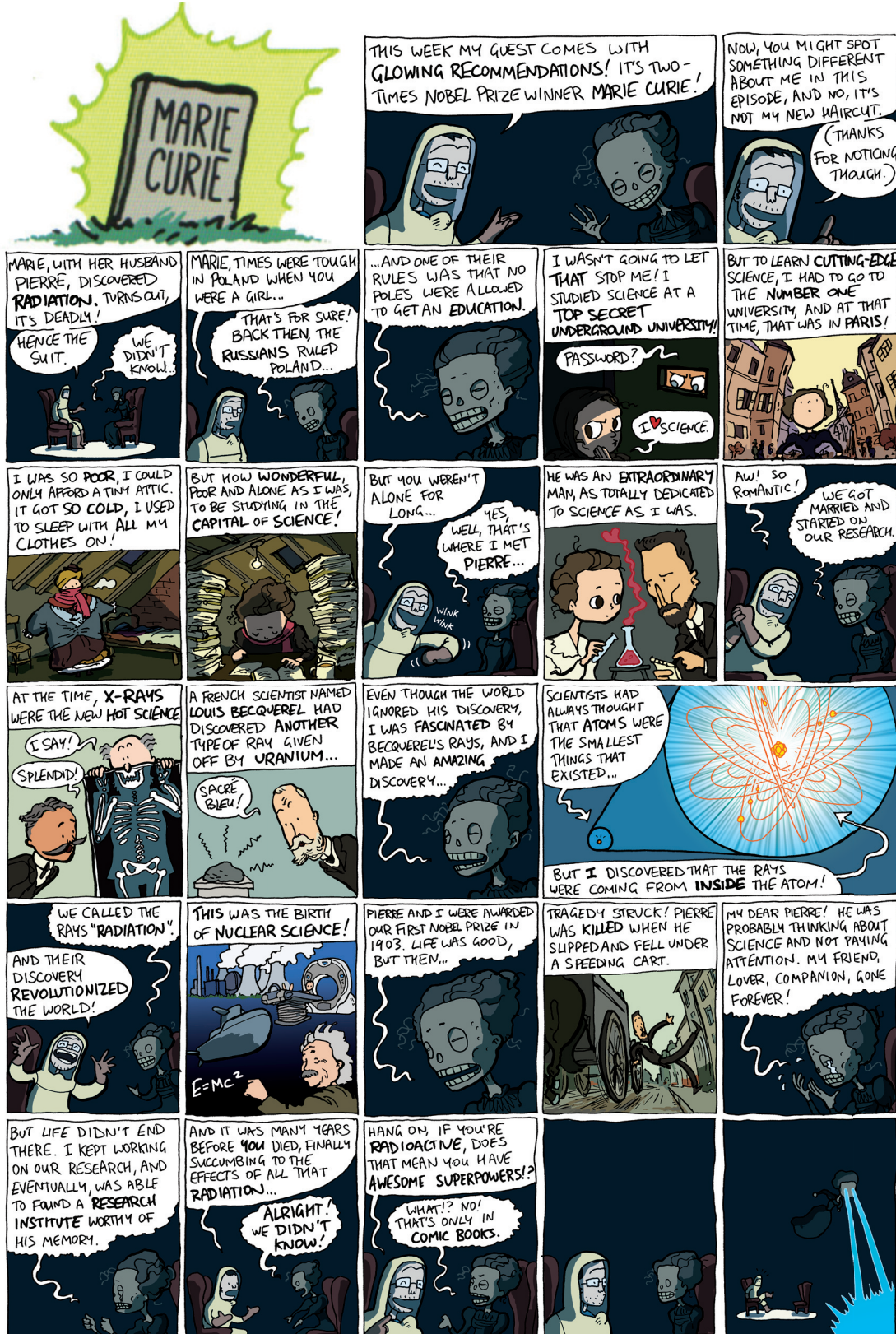
bold text = emphatic stress

(.) = micropause

(1) = pause in seconds

Text C

Text C is an instalment of 'Corpse Talk', a series in the children's comic *The Phoenix*. In this series, illustrator and author Adam Murphy places a version of himself in the comic strip, interviewing a dead celebrity about their life and achievements.



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