



**AS  
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (Wales)**

**UNIT 1**

**Exploring Language**

**SPECIMEN PAPER**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer both questions: one question in Section A and one question in Section B.  
Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question. You should divide your time accordingly. As a guide, you are advised to spend an hour on Section A and 45 minutes on Section B.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

No certificate will be awarded to a candidate detected in any unfair practice during the examination.

**Section A****Analysing Language**

1. The three texts on pages 6-8 are about avalanches. Read Texts A, B and C and then answer the question below.

**Analyse and evaluate the language used in each of these texts to describe avalanches.**

In your answer, you should consider:

- how the writers portray avalanches and the experience of being caught in one
- the purpose of each text and the ways in which the writers address their audiences
- the similarities and/or differences between the texts. **(55 marks)**

**Text A** is an extract from an article published on [www.walesonline.co.uk](http://www.walesonline.co.uk) (February 2014) about a walker who was caught in an avalanche on Snowdon, North Wales.

**Text B** is an extract from an article published in *The Great Outdoors* magazine (March 2010) about a group of friends who were caught in an avalanche in the Lake District.

**Text C** is an avalanche warning published on the Facebook page of the Canadian Avalanche Centre (February 2014).

**Text A:** an article published on [www.walesonline.co.uk](http://www.walesonline.co.uk)

## **Avalanche on Snowdon leaves man buried in four feet of snow**

Feb 16, 2014 13:21 By **Steffan Rhys**

A walker is lucky to be alive after being caught in the avalanche and swept 1,000ft down the mountain

The 28-year-old man and his girlfriend were swept 1,000ft. Six other walkers were also caught in the avalanche and carried various distances.

They searched for the man and dug him out.

Rescuers said he had been unconscious, after being in the snow for around 20 minutes.

An RAF Sea King rescue helicopter from Valley, Anglesey, flew members of the Llanberis and Aberglaslyn mountain rescue teams up the 3,560ft peak and they carried him on a stretcher to below the cloud. He was then airlifted to Gwynedd Hospital at Bangor and had come round but was in pain.

The Bristol man and his girlfriend, also in her 20s, were ascending the Pyg Track on the Zig Zags when ice gave way and the avalanche occurred. She fell but managed to escape from the snow.

More than 30 rescuers were called out. One said: "A huge amount of snow fell on them. He has been very lucky."

Phil Benbow of the Llanberis team warned: "There is considerable avalanche risk at present especially on loaded east and north east facing slopes. Anyone venturing out over the next few days should take account of this and plan their routes accordingly." In a second lucky escape from death on the highest peak in England and Wales, a hiker in his 40s from Denbigh, who didn't have a map, lost his way while descending the Llanberis path and following the mountain railway.

In very poor visibility he wandered on to Cwm Glas and fell through a large cornice<sup>1</sup>, possibly nearly 200ft.

Rescuers said he managed to stop his slide although he didn't have an ice axe and dialled 999. Four members of Llanberis mountain rescue team searched in "appalling" whiteout conditions for more than an hour before finding the man.

One rescuer also fell through a cornice in the extreme conditions but luckily he was attached to a rope.

It was snowing and there was visibility of just ten feet and 90mph gusts.

Eventually a rescuer descended on a rope to him and the man was recovered to safe ground.

Mr Benbow said: "There are significant and very unstable cornices extending three to four metres out from stable ground. The casualty was cold but otherwise uninjured.

"He was very lucky that he managed to arrest his fall. The Llanberis path is not the safe descent route in winter conditions."

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<sup>1</sup> Cornice: an overhang of snow or ice that builds up along mountain ridges and the sides of gullies

**Text B:** an article published in *The Great Outdoors* magazine

## Avalanched in Hind Crag Gully

### John Stone describes how a shortcut to high ground turned into a nightmare

I heard Mike shout, and immediately a crack in the snow appeared at waist height right in front of me. My feet scrabbled as the ground gave way and I flailed with my axe to secure myself to the snow above. In seconds I was safe, but Mike was gone. I just got a glimpse of him away below, on his back riding a sea of avalanche debris, before he vanished on a mass of flowing blocks.

There was silence. There had been no warning, no noise, no crack ... The avalanche had happened in an instant. We had been only a dozen metres from walking off the top of the gully. Suddenly our other companion Chris started shouting: "Where's Mike, where the hell is Mike?"

We knew the stats. The first hour was the most important and every minute counted. We'd been hill-going companions for 20 years, since our late teens in fact. We'd been on every peak in the Lakes, climbed almost 200 Munros<sup>1</sup>, many of them in winter, and spent nights in snow holes in the Cairngorms, climbed winter routes in Torridon and had recently completed a summer traverse of the Cuillin Ridge together. But we had grown complacent, not paid enough attention to the weather forecasts and fallen into the trap of just heading out because it was the only time we had available, not because the conditions were right.

Chris and I were panic-struck. The sight of Mike falling down the gully, so fast, so silent and in an avalanche of debris, simply made me retch with fear. We rushed to try and get down, trying to descend the adjacent buttress, but in our panic picked the wrong side and finished on top of the buttress instead. Time passed quickly and within 10 minutes Chris called the number we never thought we'd dial —999, police, mountain rescue, emergency. We got half the message through, with a rough location and names, before losing the signal. I then returned to the head of the gully, panting frantically, and in my rush tripped over my crampons, nearly heading straight down the gully.

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<sup>1</sup> Munros: Scottish mountains over 3000 feet

AS AND A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE Specimen Assessment Materials 8

**Text C:** an avalanche warning published on the Facebook page of the Canadian Avalanche Centre

Canadian Avalanche Centre

Know more. Go farther. Avalanche forecasts, training and awareness. [avalanche.ca](http://avalanche.ca)

4.8 ★★★★★

(183 ratings)

9,552 likes · 98 talking about this · 58 were here

21 February



Canadian Avalanche Centre shared a link.

In case you missed it, yesterday we issued a Special Public Avalanche Warning for most of BC's<sup>1</sup> mountainous regions. We've got lots of new snow sitting on an ugly weak layer, so please make very conservative terrain choices. Avoid big avalanche terrain, avoid overhead hazard (including cornices), and stay away from terrain traps<sup>2</sup>, which could magnify the consequences of any avalanche.

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<sup>1</sup> BC's: British Columbia, a province located on the west coast of Canada

<sup>2</sup> terrain traps: any feature of the landscape that increases the chance of getting caught in an avalanche (e.g. depressions, cliffs, trees, gullies and canyons)

## Section B

### Contemporary English

2. The following set of data contains examples of text messages sent from mobile phones.

Read the data then answer the question below. You should use appropriate terminology and provide relevant supporting examples.

**Using your knowledge of contemporary English, analyse and evaluate the ways in which contextual factors affect how writers use language in mobile phone text messages. (25 marks)**

- TEXT 1 (unsolicited advertising)  
SAVE AN EXTRA 24% for 24 hours only OFF ALL Clothing & Footwear  
SALE PRICES @ [www.special.co.uk](http://www.special.co.uk) HURRY: 24% offer must end 9am  
Friday. To opt out txt STOP to 77777
- TEXT 2 (from husband to wife)  
Morr's?
- TEXT 3 (from one friend to another)  
Awwh he's such a dwt i just wanted to give him a big cwch!
- TEXT 4 (from a mother to her son at university)  
Hey you! Hope you're getting ready for bed and an early night. Sleep tight! xx
- TEXT 5 (from parent to teenage daughter)  
here when your ready no hurry : )
- TEXT 6 (from student to his mother)  
Hahahaha!!!! Quite tired tho. Found 2 of books prof told me abt. gotta email  
Philip now to make appt with him. btw dont forget to send flash drive!?!?!?
- TEXT 7 (from one friend to another)  
?4U W@ time train to Newport?  
can u txt me times  
Diolch!
- TEXT 8 (from one work colleague to another)  
Sounds good! Will it be okay if I leave early tonight? I've been through  
everything for tomorrow and the room is booked for ten. Conference packs  
are already in from the printers and the tech guys have been in. See you  
tomorrow. Steve