

# Pearson Edexcel International GCSE

## English Language B

### Paper 1

Monday 12 June 2017 – Morning  
**Extracts Booklet**

Paper Reference  
**4EB0/01R**

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**Text One****Teenage Behaviour**

adapted from a transcript of an American radio broadcast by Robin Basselin and Joshua Leo



'You know a child is growing older when he stops asking where he came from. And he starts refusing to tell you where he is going.'

'Younger children are a pain in the head; older children are a pain in the heart.'

'Teenagers say that there is nothing to do. Then they stay out all night doing it.'

These sayings about teenagers are supposed to be funny. But they are often true! Being a teenager can be exciting. But the teenage years can also be difficult. David Dobbs wrote about teenage behaviour in National Geographic Magazine: 'One morning in May, my 17-year-old son called me. He told me that he had just spent a few hours with the state police. He said he had been driving 'a little fast'. What, I asked, was 'a little fast'? He had been driving down the road at over 180 kilometres an hour. I said: "That's more than a little fast!"'

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Many other parents have similar stories to tell about their own teenagers. Teenagers often take risks, try new things and spend time with friends. But this behaviour is more than just fun. Some experts believe that this is how teenagers learn to become successful adults.

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During these teenage years, there are some behaviours that are very common. For example, teenagers often stay out late at night. Their emotions and ideas change quickly. And they often disagree with their parents.

In the past, scientists have asked why teenagers have these 'problems'. But David Dobbs explains that scientists have found a new way to look at teenage behaviour. They have found that teenagers are doing exactly the right thing. They are getting ready to move from the safety of home into the outside world. A teenager must learn to be independent.

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Scientists have found three main behaviours that help teenagers achieve independence.

First, teenagers often take risks. Risks can lead to danger. But learning to take *some* risks can be good for teenagers. Through human history, many people who took risks gained something good. Experts say that teenagers feel very strongly that they have something to gain. And they are more likely to take risks in front of other teenagers. In this way, they gain acceptance from other teenagers. Abigail Baird, a psychologist who studies teenagers, says that a teenager who takes more risks and seeks new experiences does better as an adult.

The second way teenagers learn independence is by seeking out new experiences. These new experiences may be activities like playing sports or they could be unhealthy activities such as smoking cigarettes. Some experiences involve risk-taking which may be dangerous. David Dobbs writes: 'Seeking new experience can lead to dangerous behaviour. But it can also produce positive behaviour – like the urge to meet more people, for example. This can create a wider circle of friends. This often makes us healthier, happier, safer and more successful.' Like taking risks, experience usually leads a teenager to become a more successful adult. Adults must face many new experiences. Teenagers who have had new experiences - both good and bad – are more prepared for adult life. It is this desire for new experience that pushes the teenager.

There is a third and last behaviour that helps teenagers gain independence and become adults. Teenagers like to be around people of their own age. Their friends are very important. They are learning the skills of surviving in a community. David Dobbs explains this also: 'Teens want to be around people in their age group for a powerful reason. They want to invest in the future instead of the past. We enter a world made by our parents. But we will live most of our lives in a world run by people our own age. Knowing, understanding, and building relationships with them is very important for success.' They are preparing to be social adults in their communities.

So there are good reasons for teenagers to take risks, try new things and spend time with friends. Knowing this does not make the teenage years easier. Teenagers will still make mistakes. But hopefully their teenage behaviour will help them to become successful adults.

**Text Two****A lazy, rude, selfish generation?**

adapted from an article by Kelly Running



The internet makes so many different things available to everyone including stories, photos, and a means to comment on what we read. It allows an avenue for people around the world to share their opinions on something, whether it is a news story or a photo posted on Facebook. People interact in this way now without even knowing each other, without knowing who's reading what is written. Often that which is written is their opinion and I usually respect this. 5

The other day I was scrolling through the News Feed on my Facebook page; on it was a story about a young person who made a comment to an elderly lady about her generation not being environmentally friendly. One of my friends had 'liked' this and, hence, it showed up where I could read it. The comment went on to explain that the elderly lady told the young person that in her day they recycled, they didn't have electricity, and they are not the reason why we today are dealing with climate change. I thought how disrespectful it was for the young person to say that to the elderly lady, blaming her and her generation for what we are dealing with today. Everyone has contributed to climate change, not just one group of people. 10 15

This, however, is not what ended up offending me. Usually I'm not easily offended, especially when it comes to reading comments on the internet; yet this time I did take offence to a few comments. The comments began saying that the younger generation, my generation, has no manners. As I continued to read, I discovered that many people believe that my generation is ignorant, selfish, lazy, and rude. This hit me as ignorant in itself. In essence they grouped me, along with many people out there, with a few bad youngsters. A few bad youngsters you'll find in any generation, not just mine. I know this is my view, coming from the rude, ignorant, and lazy generation, but I can't see how this generalisation is true, as so many seem to believe. 20

I'm not trying to say I'm perfect, obviously, but I say 'please' and 'thank you.' I hold the door open for people behind me and let people come out of a building, while holding the door, before I go in. If this is rude and selfish, then yes, my generation is just this. 25

The other day I was walking along and noticed an elderly man riding his bike. As I was crossing the street, I looked both ways and noticed he was gone. No, not gone, he was lying in the road! He had tipped his bicycle over. As a person from the selfish generation, I quickly looked both ways, waited for a car to go by, and ran across the street to check on him. He was fine and I gave him a hand. 30

As for being lazy, it's true; I do enjoy doing nothing on occasion; however, I work almost every day in some form. Whether I am at an event, in the office, taking photos, or writing an article I am kept quite busy. I don't expect things will simply fall into my lap; you need to work hard. 35

Again, I'm not saying I'm perfect. Everyone makes mistakes and can have moments of ignorance, selfishness, rudeness, and laziness. We're all only human. I strive to be a good person, to work hard, to be polite, and always try to do the right thing as my parents instilled in me to do. So, when reading these comments online about how my generation is basically made up of terrible people, I was a bit offended. 40