

Edexcel
International GCSE

English Language B

Paper 1

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Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
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PEARSON

Text One

An extract from a website about volunteering with Raleigh International, an organisation encouraging young people to volunteer for projects that will make a difference.

Volunteering with Raleigh International



Although we describe your Raleigh experience as an expedition, a large part of your experience will be volunteering on community and environmental projects. As there are so many volunteering options out there, here are a few pointers on why volunteering with Raleigh International on an expedition is different from other types of volunteering projects overseas.

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1) Volunteering overseas with Raleigh is a group experience so you won't feel isolated. On our main expeditions you'll be working in teams of about 12–16 people comprising 2 volunteer managers aged 25+ and volunteers aged 17–24 from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities.

2) The communities want you to be there. They recognise the benefits of Raleigh volunteers going into their communities – helping to remove poverty, working alongside the communities to show what can be achieved with teamwork and exchanging cultures.

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3) Many volunteering projects are practical such as building schools. You won't just be repainting a school that other groups have painted beforehand. You'll be making a real difference.

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4) Raleigh has a permanent field base in each country with permanent staff, transport and organisation so if anything goes wrong then we've got the staff in the country and a team of people around you to provide support.

5) Raleigh is committed to the personal development of its volunteers. This means that not only will you be making a difference to local communities, you'll also be developing skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership and cultural awareness.

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Safety

Safety is at the heart of everything we do.

Before every expedition we carry out a full risk assessment¹ of the whole expedition and each project site. Our volunteers also do their own risk assessment when they arrive, which encourages a careful attitude towards safety within the group. As well as this we have comprehensive emergency and evacuation plans in place for every project site, and

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our volunteer managers visit and assess the local medical facilities. If any individual has to return home we also have services in place to assist this.

We provide all the required safety equipment for the individual project's needs, such as life jackets, helmets, protective goggles, satellite navigation receivers and communications equipment.

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At Head Office in London we are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week in case of emergencies at home or abroad.



Volunteering Opportunities

Borneo has it all: stunning mountain terrain, equatorial rainforests and some of the most beautiful islands in the world. Borneo is home to a unique range of plant, insect and animal species found nowhere else on the planet. Doing volunteer work in Borneo you could be living and working among communities to improve health and educational services, living in an unexplored jungle whilst building a hanging suspension bridge and trekking across some of Borneo's most rugged terrain.

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As a volunteer in Costa Rica and Nicaragua you could be living and working among communities to improve health and educational services, helping to protect the countries' natural environment and trekking over mountainous terrain, beaches, jungles and volcanoes. Choosing a Costa Rica and Nicaragua expedition allows you to get to know two different countries. Costa Rica has a beautiful variety of national parks, stunning and challenging trekking terrain and remote reserves. Nicaragua's remote rural communities, traditional culture and fascinating history make for a rich and diverse location to undertake volunteer projects.

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Glossary

1. *Risk assessment* – making a judgement of how much danger is involved.

Text Two

An extract taken from a personal account of a volunteering experience on the island of Fiji.

Leila Volunteered as a Teacher in Fiji



Living in Fiji has really opened my eyes. It was the first time I left London to be away from family apart from a couple of short holidays. In Fiji everyone smiles and says “bula” to each other on the street; on my road in England, I would be lucky if I got one ‘hello’ a week!

‘Fiji time’ means that everything is slow-paced, appointments are often not met and people stroll around very slowly in the streets. It’s quite usual to find yourself waiting around for someone or something to happen in Fiji. Therefore I can say with confidence that patience is a skill I have really developed. 5

I have been very busy during my time at the nursery school. The teachers used to always say “have a rest” but I would always go and find something that needed doing. I’m proud to say that I would do my best to find a way to keep busy and I really learnt to use my initiative to get things done! At Nadi Airport Playcentre I assisted staff by helping to organise the classroom in preparation for the morning and afternoon sessions. During class time I supervised children with activities such as puzzles, craft work, drawing and reading. Art and craft has always been my passion so I regularly helped to design and make teaching aids. I also assisted with computers by helping to type up documents, such as newsletters, and encouraged teachers to develop their computer skills, which were fairly basic. 10 15

Having completed this placement, I feel more independent and have more faith in myself. I feel like I could take on almost any challenge. Confidence, a positive attitude and open-mindedness are the best tools. As a volunteer of seven months, I really enjoyed learning about the country, the culture and making new friends. I now consider Fiji to be home and my friends to be family. Some of the best things about being a volunteer were when my colleagues thanked me for teaching them something new and useful, when I was told “we’ve really learnt a lot from you”. I enjoyed knowing that I positively influenced the people I worked with and that they will continue some of the practices that I initiated, such as recycling. I was learning new things every day and consistently finding ways to help. I felt that the more I learned about the nursery school, the more I could offer them, and the more useful I could be. Making a positive contribution is the best thing about volunteering. 20 25 30

Being in Fiji over ten thousand miles from the place I call home, I had lots of time to reflect on the person I was and think about the person I would like to be. Living in 'Fiji time' has given me a chance to think about the relationships I have, my approach to people, the targets I would like to achieve in the future and my general attitude to life. I've learnt about what makes me happy and what makes me sad, I've learnt about how I should treat myself and how I should treat others.

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Before my trip to Fiji I had planned to have a career working with NGOs¹ or doing community work. Although I would like to achieve this dream, I have also realised that I don't necessarily need to be in such a profession to be humanitarian² and do good to others. Charity comes from the heart; it's about attitude. I can always help others – I don't need a paid job to do it.

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Glossary

1. *NGOs* – Non-Governmental Organisations. Non-profit making, voluntary organisations that deal with issues relating to the well-being of people and society as a whole.

2. *Humanitarian* – caring about people and their welfare and happiness; humanitarian people often participate in charitable work.

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