GCSE
4171/01
ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE
FOUNDATION TIER
UNIT 1 (READING)

A.M. TUESDAY, 3 November 2015
1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS
Resource Material.
An 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES
Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
Answer all questions.
Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES
The total mark available for this unit is 40.
The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.
Answer all of the following questions.

The separate Resource Material is a newspaper article, ‘The London Smog’, by Christopher Stevens.

On the opposite page is an autobiographical account, ‘The Great Storm of 1987’, by Lindy Roberts.


Now read the second page of the newspaper article (from ‘London had always suffered …’ to the end).


To answer the next question you need to look at all of the newspaper article.

3. How does the writer make it clear that the London smog was horrible for people in London? [10]

You should write about:
• what the writer tells us about how the smog affected people in London;
• the writer’s use of words and phrases and the photographs used.

Now read the autobiographical account, ‘The Great Storm of 1987’ on the opposite page.

4. What were Lindy Roberts’ thoughts and feelings about the great storm of 1987? [10]

You should write about:
• her thoughts and feelings before the storm;
• her thoughts and feelings during the storm;
• her thoughts and feelings immediately after the storm.

To answer the next question you will need to refer to both texts.

5. Compare and contrast what the two texts say about the London smog and the great storm of 1987. [10]

Use the following headings in your answer:
• the damage caused to the buildings;
• what the Government did in response to the smog and the storm.

You must make it clear from which text you get your information.
The Great Storm of 1987

The following is an autobiographical account where Lindy Roberts remembers what happened in the great storm of 1987.

At the time I was 12 years old and lived in Devon. Earlier in the week of the 1987 storm, there had been worrying weather forecasts that suggested severe weather was on the way. However, the day before the storm, there was almost no wind and little to suggest what was to come. I was relieved when the weather forecast that night said there was no chance of a hurricane. However, it did say that there would be heavy rain and some strong winds, which concerned me a little, but there was no indication that the wind would be so strong.

I remember waking up in the middle of the night petrified by strange noises. I called my mum because I thought there were burglars on the roof. I could hear loud banging as heavy objects were blown around by the wind. My bed was shaking and I was terrified. I looked out of my window and was amazed to see cars smashed to pieces by falling trees. I watched dustbin lids and tiles flying through the air like missiles. Our neighbour’s car was lying under a fallen tree outside our front door. There was a camper van upside down in the middle of the road. My parents and I watched horrified as the back garden fence and gate flew around and trapped our cat. We were scared to go out into the garden to rescue her. Thankfully she freed herself.

The wind died down quite quickly and despite my protests I was expected to walk to school the next day because my mum said the storm was over. On my way I was shocked to see pylons had blown down, trees were snapped in half, and some large trees had fallen on buildings, smashing roofs and windows. I later heard that around 15 million trees were destroyed. Many roads and railway lines were blocked and 18 people died. Thousands of homes were without power for several days. Some homes and public buildings were so badly damaged that they had to be pulled down. When I reached school I was delighted to be sent home because there was no electricity and most of the pupils and teachers had not arrived because of the blocked roads.

Dad blamed the weather man for getting the forecast wrong. There was a Government investigation into this and afterwards there was much more information about weather patterns gathered from ships, aircraft, buoys and satellites. It meant that people could be fully warned about approaching storms and could prepare properly. In the weeks that followed, the Government cut down diseased and unsafe trees to prevent them being blown down in the next great storm.

Lindy Roberts
London had always suffered from fog in the winter but that November and December the weather had been particularly cold. To keep warm, householders were burning large quantities of cheap coal which created a dirty and unhealthy smoke. This smoke poured out of their chimneys, but the cold conditions meant it stayed close to the ground. It mixed with the fog and smog was formed.

During the great smog many people suffered from health problems such as bronchitis and pneumonia. They had difficulty breathing and many Londoners died of suffocation. As the death toll mounted, undertakers ran out of coffins.

The many factory chimneys added to the amount of smoke in the air. Smog was also created by deadly sulphuric acid, released into the atmosphere by industries, mixing with fog. The acid burned the back of people’s throats, bringing on choking fits. It caused swelling of the lungs, especially in children, the old, and people with bad chests. The brickwork of some buildings crumbled as it was eaten away by the acidic air.

The great smog was murderous. People and animals suffocated in appalling numbers, making it Britain’s worst twentieth century peacetime catastrophe. After five days the weather changed. A breeze cleared the air, leaving an oily residue caked on every building and tree. Rain came and washed the grime into the gutters, producing an evil-smelling trickle of sooty grunge. Some of the buildings never returned to their original colours.

In 1956, the Government passed the Clean Air Act enforcing the use of smokeless fuels in homes. People were also encouraged to heat their homes by using gas or electricity instead of coal. Factories were made to reduce the amount of smoke and acid they released from their chimneys. Power stations were re-located away from big towns and cities. These measures made sure that the great London smog of 1952 would never be repeated.