



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

January 2019

English Language/English

Unit 2: Functional Writing and
Reading Non-Fiction

Foundation Tier

[GEG21]

FRIDAY 11 JANUARY, MORNING



GEG21

TIME

1 hour 30 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number on the Answer Booklet provided.

Complete **both** tasks.

Spend **45 minutes** on Section A and **45 minutes** on Section B.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 48.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each task.

Section A: Functional Writing

Up to **16 marks** are available for an **organised, appropriate** and **interesting** response.

Up to **8 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentences** and **correct spelling, punctuation** and **grammar**.

TASK 1

Write a **speech for your classmates** in which you put forward **your own thoughts and views** on the following:

“There is nothing more anti-social than social media!”

Make use of any of the information on **page 3**, if you find it helpful.

[24]

It is suggested that you **organise your time** like this:

- **10 minutes** planning
- **30 minutes** writing
- **5 minutes** checking

You may use the space below to plan your response:

“There is nothing more anti-social than social media!”



SOME OPINIONS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA:

“People don’t even look at each other anymore. They simply don’t know how to communicate without a digital device.”

“Social media makes it easier to socialise with other people. Those of us who are a little bit shy can use technology to talk to others.”

SOME FACTS ABOUT SOCIAL MEDIA:

- The more social media sites people are signed up to, the less likely they are to see their friends in real life.

- The average person has five social media accounts and spends around an hour and 40 minutes a day browsing them.

Section B: Reading Non-Fiction

Read the online article: “Must-have toys? Kids won’t remember what they got for Christmas five years from now!” on page 5.

TASK 2

This article puts forward the writer’s strong opinions about the pressure on parents to buy children what they want for Christmas.

Explain how the writer has engaged the reader by:

- expressing her feelings in a lively way
- using words and phrases to highlight her views
- using different types of sentences to add impact.

[24]

It is suggested that you organise your time like this:

- **10 minutes** reading and planning
- **30 minutes** writing
- **5 minutes** checking

Must-have toys? Kids won't remember what they got for Christmas five years from now!

Did you know there is a list somewhere that says Lego is the greatest toy of all time, thanks to its combination of fun, creativity and value for money? Scrabble came in second on the list, followed by the Action Man doll and the board game Monopoly. But what do our little darlings actually want?

Apparently top items on every kid's Christmas list are Hatchimals, Snuggles My Dream Puppy and a game called Silly Sausage, and frazzled mums and dads are going to extreme lengths and paying way over the odds to get them. You will see this in any toy store a week before Christmas, with parents commando-crawling up the aisles, praying they'll manage to swipe the last of this year's 'must-have' playthings without a wrestling match worthy of a WWE smackdown special.

Of course, this is ridiculous – we know it is – but we all want to give our kids the best we can. And that means the 'must-have' toys. I have been that mother! There I was searching for a Lego Star Wars Millennium Falcon for an eight-year-old astronaut with his heart set on constructing 437 pieces of plastic into an intergalactic spaceship. You see, I'd ordered it online and felt so smug getting ahead of all those other sad parents...until the moment I got an email informing me that a stock error meant it wouldn't be coming. After a quick panic, off I went to the nearest toy megastore. Honestly, I would have punched anyone who got in my way and maxed out my credit card if it meant my own wee Luke Skywalker got the object he had set his heart on!

Another sign of the toy-crazed parent? When you're driving the streets on Christmas Eve at midnight, looking for a 24-hour garage because you've just discovered that the talking teddy is saying nothing until he gets 8 AAA batteries. Let me tell you, they're rarer than an unemployed reindeer!

Now my wee Luke Skywalker has long outgrown his spacesuit. But I thought at least he would have remembered fondly all those toys we hunted high and low for to make his play life perfect. And what is the reality? Read on!

"Son, remember that Lego Star Wars Millennium Falcon spaceship you got when you were eight?" I asked earlier this week.

Blank look. Nothing. A black hole. I'd risked life, limb and financial ruin...endured stress, panic and exhaustion for him and he remembered NOTHING!

Save yourself the annoyance and buy something easy – like the latest game for the PS4.

© Your kids won't remember what they got for Christmas in 5 years' time' by Shari Low. Published by Daily Record, 14 December 2016. <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/lifestyle/family-kids/your-kids-wont-remember-what-9457675>

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