

General Certificate of Education
January 2005
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



**ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
(SPECIFICATION A)
Unit 1 Language Production**

NTA1

Tuesday 11 January 2005 Afternoon Session

In addition to this paper you will require:
an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is NTA1.
- Answer **both** questions.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 150.
- Question 1 carries 100 marks and Question 2 carries 50 marks.
- You will be assessed on your ability to use an appropriate form and style of writing, to organise relevant information clearly and coherently, and to use specialist vocabulary, where appropriate. The degree of legibility of your handwriting and the level of accuracy of your spelling, punctuation and grammar will also be taken into account.

Answer **both** questions.

- 1** Your task is to write a newspaper or magazine article, in which you express your views on a local or national issue of your choice. You should aim to express an opinion and to interest your readers.

You should name the publication or type of publication for which your article would be suitable. You should provide a title or headline, but should not attempt to reproduce the layout of a newspaper.

Text A is an example of an editorial article and is taken from *The Yorkshire Post*. **Text B** is a 'comment' article and is taken from *The Big Issue in the North* magazine. These are examples of how you *could* approach this task in terms of style. You should **not** write about the same topics as Texts A and B.

You are advised to write approximately 300 – 400 words.

- 2** Write a commentary which explains the choices that you made in your writing.

You should consider the following:

- your vocabulary and style in relation to the audience and purpose for your writing
- the content and structure of your text.

END OF QUESTIONS

Text A

Text A is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

TURN OVER FOR TEXT B

Turn over ►

Text B

CommentCommentCommentCommentCommentCommentCommentCommentComment

Pensioner power

*By Ato Erzan-Essien***OAPs are a larger and more powerful political lobby than ever before and it's about time we started taking them seriously.**

It was about a week before Christmas 1998 when I was asked to help deliver seasonal hampers to Preston's elderly.

The giveaway was organised annually by the local evening paper I worked for at the time. Friends and family of the recipients nominated them for one of the gifts.

As a young(ish) newspaper reporter, I was fully aware of the many ongoing issues surrounding pensioner poverty, which usually came to the fore during the winter months. But what I saw shocked me nevertheless.

It wasn't just the obvious isolation that many of the elderly people I saw lived in; one couple that opened the door to me were standing in a living room completely empty but for a battered armchair. That winter was later described to me by the local coroner as the worst for deaths he could remember in 25 years. It was a cold winter, yet not that cold – but the number of deaths from influenza and other assorted conditions associated

with that time of year led to a massive backlog of burials that completely overwhelmed the town's funeral directors.

Grieving families were forced to wait weeks to bury their deceased relatives. Of course, it was the elderly who bore the brunt of these deaths.

“The Government's attitude reflects wider society's perception of its elderly folk...”

The charge that is often meted out to us British is that we care more about our animals than our children. But what about our elderly? So after decades of being sidelined and marginalised by the rest of the population, it's good to see OAPs are launching a manifesto. But why has it taken so long? Perhaps because unlike younger generations, they are a more patient lot. Because pensioners have battled over the years for better pension rights, council tax concessions

and better care services among many other issues, successive governments have been given plenty of opportunity to treat them with the respect and dignity they deserve.

The 60th anniversary of the D-Day landings will soon be upon us and should serve as a timely reminder of the price older generations have paid for us to enjoy many of the freedoms we have today – so what if it's become a cliché?

But we can't put the blame solely at the feet of the Government. Its attitude merely reflects wider society's perception of its elderly folk: we all think the raw deal that many receive is a scandal but few are genuinely prepared to do anything about it. And with the launch of the Pensioners' Parliament manifesto, it's about time we started standing up with and for them, because, if nothing else, the way we treat them now will directly determine how we ourselves will be treated in the future.

Source: *The Big Issue in the North*, May 24 – 30

END OF TEXTS

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Text A: Courtesy of *The Yorkshire Post*.

Text B: ATO ERZAN-ESSIEN *The Big Issue in the North*.

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