

General Certificate of Education  
June 2008  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



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

**NTA1**

Friday 16 May 2008 9.00 am to 10.15 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an 8-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 15 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black 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.
- Do all rough work in the answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

**Information**

- The maximum mark for this paper is 150.
- Question 1 carries 100 marks, while Question 2 carries 50 marks.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

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Answer **both** questions.

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- 1 Your task is to write an **extract** from a **travel guide** about a place that you know well.

Text A is an extract from the travel guide *Footprint Scotland*. It is provided as an example of the kind of style and approach that could be suitable for this task, but you should not write about Fort William.

You are advised to write approximately 300 – 400 words.

(100 marks)

- 2 Write a commentary that explains the choices you made when writing your extract, by commenting on the following:

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

(50 marks)

**END OF QUESTIONS**

## Text A

## Fort William and around

*Fort William is the gateway to the Western Highlands and one of the country's main tourist centres. It stands at the head of Loch Linnhe, with the snow-topped mass of Ben Nevis towering behind. You could be forgiven for assuming that it's quite an attractive place, but you'd be wrong. Despite its magnificent setting, Fort William has all the charm of a motorway service station. A dual carriageway runs along the lochside, over a litter-strewn pedestrian underpass and past dismal 1960s concrete boxes masquerading as hotels.*

Most of the good things about Fort William are outside the town. The surrounding mountains and glens are amongst the most stunning in the Highlands and attract hikers and climbers in their droves: **Ben Nevis** – Britain's highest peak at 4,406 ft – and also the very beautiful **Glen Nevis**, which many of you may recognize from movies such as *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy*... There's also skiing and snowboarding at nearby **Aonach Mor**, one of Scotland's top ski areas... and some good mountain biking around the **Leanachan Forest**...

Though it's not a pretty sight, Fort William is the largest town hereabouts and has all the services and facilities you'd expect. There are banks with ATMs on the pedestrianized High Street, as well as a couple of good supermarkets and two well-stocked outdoor-equipment shops.

### Ins and outs

Fort William is easily reached by **bus**, from Inverness, Glasgow and Oban, and by **train**, direct from Glasgow via the amazing and beautiful West Highland Railway. The train and bus stations are next to each other at the north end of the High St, on the other side of the dual carriageway. If you're driving, parking can be a problem. There's a big **car park** beside the loch at the south end of town, and another behind the tourist office. You can also walk to Fort William, if you have a week to spare, from just north of Glasgow, along the 95 mile-long **West Highland Way**...

### Getting around

The town is strung out for several miles along the banks of Loch Linnhe. The centre is compact and easy to get around on foot. Many of the **guesthouses** and **B&Bs**, and a few youth hostels, are in **Corpach**, 1½ miles to the north, but there are frequent buses from the town centre. There are also buses to the youth hostel in **Glen Nevis**...

### Sights

There's little of real interest in the town, though the **West Highland Museum**, on Cameron Square by the tourist office, is a worthwhile exception. It contains excellent exhibits of Jacobite memorabilia, including a bed in which Prince Charles slept, and a 'secret' portrait of the prince which is revealed only when reflected in a cylindrical mirror. There are also fine displays of Highland clans and tartans, wildlife and local history...

Text A continues on the next page

The **fort** from which the town gets its name was built in 1690 by order of William III to keep the rebellious Scottish clans in order. The garrison fought off attacks by Jacobites during the rebellions of 1715 and 1745 but was then demolished to make way for the railway line. The scant remains of the fort can be seen on the lochside, near the train station.

The **Ben Nevis Distillery** is at Lochy Bridge, at the junction of the A82 to Inverness and the A830 to Mallaig, about a mile north of the town centre. To get there take a Caol or Corpach bus...

## END OF EXTRACT

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Text A: Footprint Handbooks