

Language Paper 1 Source A (Memory)

Source A. The extract is from *Birdsong* written by Sebastian Faulks in 1993, set during WWI. In this extract the beginning of the Battle of the Somme is told through the eyes of the narrator, Stephen.

5 We live in time - it holds us and moulds us - but I've never felt I understood it very well. And I'm not referring to theories about how it bends and doubles back, or may exist elsewhere in parallel versions. No, I mean ordinary, everyday time, which clocks and watches assure us passes regularly: tick-tock, click-clock. Is there anything more plausible than a second hand?

10 And yet it takes only the smallest pleasure or pain to teach us time's malleability. Some emotions speed it up, others slow it down; occasionally, it seems to go missing - until the eventual point when it really does go missing, never to return.

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15 I'm not very interested in my schooldays, and don't feel any nostalgia for them. But school is where it all began, so I need to return briefly to a few incidents that have grown into anecdotes, to some approximate memories which time has deformed into certainty. If I can't be sure of the actual events any more, I can at least be true to the impressions those facts left. That's the best I can manage.

20 There were three of us, and he now made the fourth. We hadn't expected to add to our tight number: cliques and pairings had happened long before, and we were already beginning to imagine our escape from school into life. His name was Adrian Finn, a tall, shy boy who initially kept his eyes down and his mind to himself. For the first day or two, we took little notice of him: at our school there was no welcoming ceremony, let alone its opposite, the punitive induction. We just registered his presence and waited.

25 The masters were more interested in him than we were. They had to work out his intelligence and sense of discipline, calculate how well he'd previously been taught, and if he might prove 'scholarship material'. On the third morning of that autumn term, we had a history class with Old Joe Hunt, wryly affable in his three-piece suit, a teacher whose system of control depended on maintaining sufficient but not excessive boredom.

'Now, you'll remember that I asked you to do some preliminary reading about the reign of Henry VIII.' Colin, Alex and I squinted at one another, hoping that the question wouldn't be flicked, like an angler's fly, to land on one of our heads. 'Who might like to offer a characterisation of the age?' He drew his own conclusion from our averted eyes. 'Well, Marshall, perhaps. How would you describe Henry VIII's reign?'

04. A student, having read this section of the text, said

"I like how the narrator considers the power that time has over us. When he recollects his school days he does not seem to remember them particularly well, leaving us intrigued about the significance of his new friend, Adrian Finn ."

To what extent do you agree?

You could write about:

- consider your impressions of the narrator's school days
- evaluate how the writer presents his school days and new friend
- support your response with evidence from the text

| Language Paper 2 Source A and Source B (Memory) | |
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| <p>Source A. In 1890 Octavia Hill wrote the following letter to a newspaper, The Daily Graphic, about the opening of a new park.</p> <p>Sir, - The eight acres in Lambeth which are today opened to the public under the name of Vauxhall Park have been secured by a long and difficult struggle, in which many people and all classes have helped. We have had here, bound together for one good cause, some of every station; from the Prince and Princess of Wales, and the Archbishop of Canterbury to the day labourer, all have done their share - the lawyer, the vestryman, the artist, the clergy, the contributor to the press, the member of Parliament, the generous from among the wealthy - not only from the neighbourhood, but even from far away among the hills and woods of rural England, where the need of open space can only be realised by the sympathetically imaginative. To one who watched the struggle throughout, what memories rise of the helpful and humble who have each contributed what they could at the needed moment!</p> <p>The ground, as it is well known, is situated in the heart of Lambeth, and will form one of those all too few central gardens to which the very young and the very old, the over-worked in brief intervals of work, and the quite poor may find near to their own houses the rest, the air, the outside peace they so often need.</p> <p>The Kyrle Society has plans for gymnasium, for shelter, for drinking and playing fountains, which they would readily aid.</p> <p>May I also tell your readers that we have just now important pioneer work in prospect, for which we would ask to have our hands strengthened by money? Time and thought, and experience and knowledge, we have ready; and I do not myself doubt but that those who have helped us so generously before will do it again.</p> | <p>Source B. In June 2020 England striker Marcus Rashford wrote an open letter to MPs asking for them to rethink their decision to end free s</p> <p>I have a difficult relationship with nature, which I believe is how it should be. Last week, I put my dressing gown on after getting out of the shower and felt a prickling sensation on my thigh. A wasp flew out, and my leg swelled up, and I cursed these beasts I am compelled to live alongside, and the loving friction we create.</p> <p>In 2019, after eight years of austerity, their funding cut by 60%, councils sold off thousands of public spaces, including libraries, community centres and playgrounds. Locality, a campaign group fighting to save public spaces, estimates that nearly half of all public land in Britain has been sold off since the 1970s; they say nearly 4,000 public spaces and buildings are being sold off every year in England alone.</p> <p>The chipping away of our public spaces makes me wonder, who is a city for? Just as our remaining libraries and community centres became “warm banks” for people who couldn’t afford to heat their houses, our remaining parks and public spaces will inevitably home people who have been forced on to the streets. The developers of privately owned public spaces are not interested, however, in building spaces for these poorer or homeless populations; the parks they design are commercial and shiny, and unwelcoming to all but those able to pay the entrance fee of a £3 coffee and £6 sandwich.</p> <p>The idea of a town with only these private parks is chilling. I write this as someone who’s been known to resent a sunny day. As someone vastly more comfortable on a sofa than a lawn, as someone who believes nature is not magic, not a cure-all, not something that exists for us.</p> |

04. Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on parks and the open spaces they provide

In your answer you could:

- compare their different feelings and perspectives on parks
- compare the methods they use to convey their feelings and perspectives
- support your response with references to both texts.

