

Source A 'Have we learned the lessons from the history of London fogs?' on the Guardian Online, by Christine L Corton in 2017

Londoners are being warned not to breathe too deeply when they go outside. A toxic fog is hanging over the streets, threatening the health and wellbeing of the capital. It is small consolation to know that this has been the state of the city's air for more than 200 years.

London is in a natural basin surrounded by hills and its air generally holds moisture because of the river running through it, so it has always had a natural fog problem.

Then came the industrial revolution, with coal fires powering steam-driven factory machines and being used to heat homes. As the city's industry and population grew apace from the 1820s onwards, smoke mixed with the moist air and on cold days produced a particularly nasty, thick, yellow, sulphurous atmosphere that became trapped in London's narrow roads and alleyways. People knew from early on that the smog could kill and there were many calls to clean up London's air.

Many politicians took up the cause but they were generally isolated or maverick figures. It was MP Gerald Nabarro who turned the tide after the Great Smog of 1952 killed around 12,000 people. He forced through the 1956 Clean Air Act despite government reluctance.

Why did it take so long? Industrial interests often prevailed. To move to cleaner fuels always meant higher costs and successive governments were reluctant to interfere with the right of domestic consumers to use the fuel they preferred.

Writers perceived the magic and mystery of London fog and used it extensively. Dickens employed it in the opening pages of *Bleak House*. Pulp-fiction writers liked to use smog as a means of totally destroying life in London.

Visitors to the city complained if they did not experience the famous London fog. Foreign artists saw its potential and came over to paint it.

Jack the Ripper is often dramatised as pursuing his victims through the fog, but in fact his crimes took place on clear nights.

Will the toxic fog Londoners are now experiencing be seen as anything other than what it really is – a dangerous, poisonous nuisance? It is much harder to romanticise now than the pea-soupers of the past. Nowadays, too, cleaner technology is available with electric cars as well as less polluting fuels for industry.

In Victorian times it was our love for home fires that politicians were reluctant to upset; today it is our love for cars and other private means of transport. It took many decades to act on the knowledge that pea-soupers cost lives. How many decades will it take in our own time?

Source B Henry Mayhew, a British journalist, wrote the following letter to *The Morning Chronicle* in 1850

It was noon, and an exquisitely bright and clear spring day; but the view was smudgy and smeared with smoke. And yet the haze which hung like a curtain of shadow before and over everything, increased rather than diminished the giant sublimity of the city that lay stretched out beneath. It was utterly unlike London as seen every day below, in all its bricken and hard-featured reality; it was rather the phantasm - the spectral illusion, as it were, of the great metropolis - such as one might see it in a dream, with here and there stately churches and palatial hospitals, shimmering like white marble, their windows glittering in the sunshine like plates of burnished gold - while the rest of the scene was all hazy and indefinite. Even the outlines of the neighbouring streets, steeples, and towers were blurred in misty indistinctness. Clumps of buildings and snatches of parks loomed through the clouds like dim islands rising out of the sea of smoke. It was impossible to tell where the sky ended and the city began; and as you peered into the thick haze you could, after a time, make out the dusky figures of tall factory chimneys plumed with black smoke; while spires and turrets seemed to hang midway between you and the earth, as if poised in the thick grey air. In the distance the faint hills, with the sun shining upon them, appeared like some far-off shore, or a mirage seen in the sky - indeed, the whole scene was more like the view of some imaginary and romantic Cloudland, than that of the most matter-of-fact and prosaic city in the world. As you peeped down into the thoroughfares you could see streams of busy little men, like ants, continually hurrying along in opposite directions; while, what with carts, cabs, and omnibuses, the earth seemed all alive with tiny creeping things, as when one looks into the grass on a summer's day. As you listened you caught the roar of the restless human tide of enterprise and competition at work below; and as you turned to contemplate the river at your back, you saw the sunlight shining upon the grey water beneath you like a sheet of golden tissue, while far away in the distance it sparkled again as the stream went twisting through the monster town. Beyond London-bridge nothing was visible; a thick veil of haze and fog hung before the shipping, so that not one solitary mast was to be seen marking the far-famed port of London.

QUESTION 1

Source A, bold section: Shade the boxes of the four true statements.

- | |
|---|
| A. Air pollution like smog is new to the city of London |
| B. The London smog is not threatening in modern times |
| C. London's air pollution is not linked to its geographical location |
| D. London's river helps to ensure that smog does not remain in the city |
| E. Smog in London started following the industrial era |
| F. Historically, the fog was worse on a cold day |
| G. Historically, the smog became trapped in the smaller streets of London |
| H. London smog can potentially be fatal |

QUESTION 2

Use details from both sources to write a summary of what you understand about the different effects caused by the smoke or air pollution.

	Source A	Source B
	Evidence:	Evidence:
	Suggestion:	Suggestion:
	Evidence:	Evidence:
	Suggestion:	Suggestion:

[illegible]

QUESTION 3

Source B, **bold** section: How does the writer use language to describe the smog?

[illegible]

QUESTION 4

For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A and Source B.

Compare how the writers convey their different feelings and perspectives on the smog

In your answer, you could:

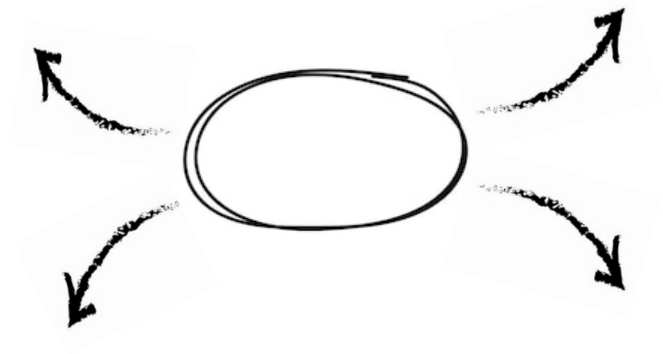
- compare their different feelings and perspectives on their experiences of the smog
- compare the methods they use to convey their feelings and perspectives
- support your response with references to both texts.

Link	Source A	Source B
	V: Q: A:	V: Q: A:
	V: Q: A:	V: Q: A:

[illegible]

QUESTION 5

“Today’s generation need to do more to prevent the destruction and pollution of our planet. It is time we started doing more to protect and look after the world around us”.
Write an article giving your views on this topic.



LANGUAGE PAPER 2 OVERVIEW				
Q	Marks	Time	Focus	Tips
1				<div>⇒</div> <div>⇒</div> <div>⇒</div>
2				<div>⇒</div> <div>⇒</div> <div>⇒</div>
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