

## Sample exam paper for Paper 1

### Source A

This extract is the opening of a short story by John Wyndham. Although written in 1952, it is set in the future. In this section, a shuttle bus is taking the next group of volunteers to a space ship, ready to depart for Mars.

#### Survival

As the spaceport bus trundled unhurriedly over the mile or more of open field that separated the terminal building from the embarkation hoist\*, Mrs Feltham stared intently forward across the receding  
5 row of shoulders in front of her.

The ship stood up on the plain like an isolated silver spire. Near its bow she could see the intense blue light which proclaimed it all but ready to take off. Among and around the great tailfins, dwarf vehicles  
10 and little dots of men moved in a fuss of final preparations. Mrs Feltham glared at the scene, at this moment loathing it and all the inventions of men with a hard, hopeless hatred.

Presently she withdrew her gaze from the distance  
15 and focused it on the back of her son-in-law's head, a yard in front of her. She hated him, too.

She turned, darting a swift glance at the face of her daughter in the seat beside her. Alice looked  
20 pale; her lips were firmly set, her eyes fixed straight ahead.

Mrs Feltham hesitated. Her glance returned to the spaceship. She decided on one last effort. Under cover of the bus noise, she said: 'Alice, darling, it's not too late, even now, you know.'

25 The girl did not look at her. There was no sign that she had heard, save that her lips compressed a little more firmly. Then they parted.

'Mother, please!' she said.

But Mrs Feltham, once started, had to go on.

'It's for your own sake, darling. All you have to do  
30 is say you've changed your mind.'

The girl held a protesting silence.

'Nobody would blame you,' Mrs Feltham persisted. 'They'd not think a bit worse of you. After all, everybody knows that Mars is no place for –'  
35

'Mother, please stop it,' interrupted the girl.

The sharpness of her tone took Mrs Feltham aback for a moment. She hesitated. But time was growing too short to allow herself the luxury of offended dignity. She went on: 'You're not used  
40 to the sort of life you'll have to live there, darling. Absolutely primitive. No kind of life for any woman. After all, dear, it is only a five-year appointment for David. I'm sure if he really loves you he'd rather know that you *are* safe here and waiting –'  
45

The girl said, harshly: 'We've been over all this before, Mother. I tell you it's no good. I'm not a child. I've thought it out, and I've made up my mind.'

Mrs Feltham sat silent for some moments.  
50 The bus swayed on across the field, and the rocketship seemed to tower further into the sky.

'If you had a child of your own –' she said, half to herself. 'Well, I expect some day you will. Then you will begin to understand...'  
55

\*embarkation hoist – take off platform for the space ship

**Section A: Reading**

- 1 Read again the first part of the source, lines 1 to 5.

List four things from this part of the text about Mrs Feltham's journey.

**[4 marks]**

- 2 Look in detail at this extract from lines 6 to 16 of the source:

The ship stood up on the plain like an isolated silver spire. Near its bow she could see the intense blue light which proclaimed it all but ready to take off. Among and around the great tail fins, dwarf vehicles and little dots of men moved in a fuss of final preparations. Mrs Feltham glared at the scene, at this moment loathing it and all the inventions of men with a hard, hopeless hatred.

Presently she withdrew her gaze from the distance and focused it on the back of her son-in-law's head, a yard in front of her. She hated him, too.

How does the writer use language here to describe the space ship and Mrs Feltham's response to it?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

**[8 marks]**

- 3 You now need to think about the whole of the source.

This text is from the opening of a short story.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the extract develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

**[8 marks]**

- 4 Focus this part of your answer on the rest of the source, from line 17 to the end.

A novelist once said: 'Mothers and daughters with strong personalities might see the world from very different points of view.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you should:

- write about what impressions Mrs Feltham and Alice make on the reader
- evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- support your opinions with quotations from the text.

**[20 marks]**

### Section B: Writing

- 5 You are going to enter a creative writing competition.

Either:

Write a description suggested by this picture:



Or

Write a story about tension between a mother and daughter.

(24 marks for content and organization,  
16 marks for technical accuracy)

**[40 marks]**