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English A: language and literature – Higher level – Paper 1
Anglais A : langue et littérature – Niveau supérieur – Épreuve 1
Inglés A: Lengua y Literatura – Nivel Superior – Prueba 1

6 November 2025 / 6 novembre 2025 / 6 de noviembre de 2025

Zone A afternoon	Zone B afternoon	Zone C afternoon
Zone A après-midi	Zone B après-midi	Zone C après-midi
Zona A tarde	Zona B tarde	Zona C tarde

2 h 15 m

Instructions to candidates

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Write a guided analysis of text 1.
- Write a guided analysis of text 2.
- Use the guiding question or propose an alternative technical or formal aspect of the text to focus your analysis.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[40 marks]**.

Instructions destinées aux candidats

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 1.
- Rédigez une analyse dirigée du texte 2.
- Utilisez la question d'orientation ou proposez une autre manière d'aborder le texte en choisissant un aspect technique ou formel sur lequel concentrer votre analyse.
- Le nombre maximum de points pour cette épreuve d'examen est de **[40 points]**.

Instrucciones para los alumnos

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 1.
- Escriba un análisis guiado del texto 2.
- Utilice la pregunta de orientación o proponga otro aspecto técnico o formal del texto en el que centrar su análisis.
- La puntuación máxima para esta prueba de examen es **[40 puntos]**.

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

- The following text has been taken from *Whizz Pop Bang* magazine, a British monthly science magazine for 6- to 12-year-old children.

Interview with a SCIENCE HERO

In my job I get to...



use science to bake!

Ravneet Gill, baker, TV presenter and psychologist

Rav presents several programmes about baking and is a judge on Junior Bake Off¹.

“My mum wasn’t keen on me helping in the kitchen because I was very messy!”

She is such a good cook, but when I was young, the kitchen was her territory. I could watch, but I didn’t help. In my teenage years, I started helping my mum a bit more. I made samosas (pastries with savoury fillings) and rolled our rotis (flatbreads). I used to make pancakes with my dad too – I loved those!

“I have always LOVED science!”

At school, I especially enjoyed biology and chemistry. I’m a huge animal lover, so any lesson that was based around biology or animals made me really happy and engaged. I studied psychology at university and the whole time I was studying, I cooked and baked for everyone. In the back of my head I knew I’d love to be a chef, so after I’d finished my degree, I started training and working in kitchens. It wasn’t always easy but I learned so much.

“I use science to help me every day.”

I love working with recipes that involve sugar temperatures! After years and years of monitoring what happens when you heat sugar to various temperatures, you get used to what the pan sounds like, what the bubbles might look like, what the smells are. There are so many different signs to look out for and I think it’s fun to know how sugar changes at various temperatures.



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Rav with her Junior Bake Off co-hosts, Liam Charles and Harry Hill

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Interview with a SCIENCE HERO



Rav is a huge animal fan – this is her cat Armand

“The highlight of my career was getting the job as a presenter on Junior Bake Off.”

Never in a million years did I think that would happen. We laugh a lot, usually with the bakers when they are dancing and having fun. Liam’s dancing makes everyone laugh too, and he’s always messing about in the golf buggies². It’s a lot of fun.

“Cooking involves lots of experimenting.”

It took me countless hours to nail making a Portuguese custard tart in a home oven! I had to make so many over and over again to get them right. Sometimes they would explode, or the custard would scramble, burn or spill over the cases! I think it took around 20 attempts, but I got it right in the end.



Pastel de Nata, a Portuguese custard tart.

“If you want to be a scientist when you grow up...”

...spend your time being curious! Research, read, play and channel your energy into things that interest you and bring you joy and excitement.

On the Junior Bake Off set



© Ravneet Gill

© Ravneet Gill

WHIZZPOP.BANG.COM 23

¹ Junior Bake Off: a British television baking competition for young bakers aged 9 to 12
² golf buggies: small vehicles used to transport people and equipment across golf courses and large areas like TV sets or studio lots

– How is the characterisation of Rav used to promote science to young people?

Write a guided analysis of the following text.

2. The following is an opinion piece from the New Zealand daily newspaper *The Press*.

THE PRESS

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The practical magic of painting

Joe Bennett



OPINION: What do I know about painting? Nothing at all. Does that matter? Hell no. I have eyes.

Take a lobster. Or some oyster shells. Or a torn loaf. Or a heap of dead birds, one of them plucked. Or a bunch of hydrangeas in a pewter mug whose bulbous flank reflects the light in a dull sheen. Or a fish, the eye clouding over in death. Or a wine glass, both reflecting the light and letting it pass through. Capture any or all of that in paint on canvas, brilliant in detail, unmistakable and true, and what have you got? You've got a Dutch still life¹ from the 17th century. And still the best painting ever.

5

It began with money. In the 17th century the Dutch were rich. They had colonies. They were traders. Wealth poured into low flat Holland.

10 Money first serves needs. When needs are satisfied it serves pleasures. One such pleasure was pictures. Today pictures are easily reproduced. We see them everywhere on paper, walls and screens. But back then every picture was unique and something of a wonder.

Painters had been around for centuries but their biggest patron had always been the church. It commissioned paintings of biblical stories to wow peasants or titillate bishops. So most painting
15 in medieval Europe was religious.

Then came the Reformation. The Dutch state became Calvinist². A Calvinist church is bare of ornament. Why, I can't tell you.

Dutch painters had to find new things to paint. They looked around them and painted what they saw. They painted soldiers drinking, a girl pouring milk, an anatomist dissecting a corpse
20 before an audience. The result was a record of 17th-century Dutch life that's as fresh as a bellbird's³ voice.

But the best of all their paintings were the still lifes. It seems that the painters deliberately set themselves the hardest challenges – the shimmer of a pigeon's breast, a bead of water on a nasturtium leaf – and then rose to meet them.

25 They wouldn't have seen themselves as artists. They were artisans, men – and, once in a rare while, women – who were rightly proud of their skills. Their job was to capture the play of light in this incessant world so as to bewitch the viewer and separate him from his money. Selling was the test and the purpose. There were no creative grants, no residencies, no academic sinecures⁴ to fall back on. If your work didn't sell, you did something else or learned to paint better. It was a practical
30 business, a trade. But for all that, it was a form of magic.

Everything is ephemeral⁵. Nothing stops the onward rush of time. But art seems to. It takes the fleeting moment, the feeling, the ripeness, and holds it still through the medium of words or music or, in this case, paint.

Paint transforms a lobster from a temporary hunk of three-dimensional biology into a durable blob
35 of two-dimensional colour, a blob that goes floating down time's river for century on century. Here is the lobster that never rots.

These ancient painters preached no themes. They didn't paint about themselves. They disappeared within their craft. They had the modesty of mastery. They merely painted lobsters, bread and wine glasses with incomparable skill. They had nothing to say, and no one has said it better.

¹ still life: a work of art depicting inanimate subject matter

² Calvinist: from Calvinism, a major branch of Protestant Christianity

³ bellbird: a species of bird known for their distinctive bell-like calls

⁴ academic sinecure: a salaried university or research position requiring minimal work, such as an honorary professorship

⁵ ephemeral: something that is short-lived, lasting for only a brief period

– How and to what effect is language used to express the author's opinion?

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References/Références/Referencias:

1. Whizz Pop Bang, 2023. Interview with a science hero. *Whizz Pop Bang*, 100, pp. 22–23. Source adapted.
2. Bennett, J., 2023. The Practical Magic of Painting. *The Press*, [online] Available at: <https://www.thepress.co.nz/nz-news/350120072/practical-magic-painting> [Accessed 3 January 2024]. Source adapted.

Thierry Chesnot / Stringer. *PARIS, FRANCE – FEBRUARY 21: A visitor looks at the painting “The Milkmaid” (La laitiere, 1657–1658) by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer (1632–1675) during a press visit of the exhibition “Vermeer and the Masters of Genre Painting” at the Louvre museum on February 21, 2017 in Paris, France.* [photograph] Available at : <https://www.gettyimages.ie/detail/news-photo/visitor-looks-at-the-painting-the-milkmaid-by-dutch-painter-news-photo/643470392>. [Accessed 15 November 2024]. Source adapted.