
INTERNATIONAL AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Unit 1 Language and context

Monday 6 January 2025

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an OxfordAQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- There are **two** sections:
 - Section A: Understanding texts
 - Section B: Directed writing.
- Answer Question 1 from Section A **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for Question 1 and 25 marks for either Question 2 or Question 3.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A: Understanding texts

Answer Question 1.

0	1
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Text A and **Text B** are printed on pages **3** and **4**.

Text A is an article from the Education section of the UK newspaper, the *i*.

Text B is an article from a magazine called *Student Life*.

Examine how the writers of **Text A** and **Text B** use language to create meanings.

In your answer you should consider different:

- audiences
- purposes
- genres
- modes of communication.

[25 marks]

Text A

EDUCATION

Kia-Elise Green



I never regret opting out of university

When I told my grammar school that I'd decided not to attend university, their first reaction was to check that everything was all right at home. The choice to learn how to be a journalist in a newsroom instead of sitting in lectures and partying with my uni mates seemed to greatly concern them.

My parents didn't go to university, my mental health was suffering, I didn't have all the resources I needed at home - anything but the fact that I didn't fancy it were the possible reasons they came up with.

Fast forward 24 months and I couldn't tell you anything about university life or what a journalism degree involves. What I could have a conversation with you about, however, is how I've learnt to be a journalist in the real world.

That's not to say I had no time with a tutor: The first six months of my

apprenticeship* were spent in a classroom learning the Editors' Code, media law, shorthand and interview skills, as well as studying English.

Abandoning the traditional educational route means sticking by your decision, even if everybody thinks you've gone mad.

Nobody could convince me that the "experience of uni" was worth it. And that leads me on to something else I was warned about: FOMO – the fear of missing out.

University is (apparently) the best years of your life: three years of eating ready meals and sharing a dirty kitchen, before becoming increasingly stressed in the last few weeks when you realise you should maybe, actually, do some work.

I'm not against university – it is essential for some careers. However, attitudes need to change towards those of us who choose to opt out: our lives are not over if we ditch university. It's not true that I can't be a lawyer without lectures, and it's definitely false that I can't be an engineer without getting a degree first. A pilot, an accountant, a plumber – none require you to move to Cambridge, Durham or Oxford (although you should feel free to).

Ultimately, if you don't want to go to university or do an apprenticeship, you don't have to. There are plenty of routes to a fulfilling and successful career, and whatever works for you is best.

National Apprenticeship Week runs from 6-12 February

*apprenticeship: a paid job where someone is trained, learns skills and gains experience

Text B

University – is it for you?



University fees are at an all-time high and the cost of living away from home in student accommodation is rising. Add to this the many other routes that can lead to a well-paid job in the future and it begs the question, why do so many students still choose to ‘go away’ to university?

Ella, 23, recently completed a four-year degree in Criminology. She was the first person in her family to go to university and has no regrets. She told us why she feels it’s still an option worth considering.

Why did you decide to go to university?

I went for the experience of university life in another city and to make new friends. I chose Criminology because I thought it was the most interesting subject to study but without any real consideration of a career path. The best thing about the course was that it allowed me to have a year in industry in Manchester. So I studied and worked – the best of both worlds.

How did you find academic study?

Studying at university was very different compared to A-levels. University is centred around self-study and my second year was completely online due to Covid so this made it difficult as I work best with face-to-face study. I enjoyed the lectures as they were really informative and learning with a group in seminars is very helpful.

Apart from learning about the subject, what skills and qualities have you developed?

I’ve become more confident, independent and self-sufficient throughout my years at university. Academically, I’ve learned a great deal. I’m more knowledgeable, more articulate. I’m also much more organised and better at managing my time.

Some say that it’s not worth the expense. What’s your view?

Some people argue going to university isn’t worth it, unless it’s a vocational degree, as there are apprenticeships that could be beneficial in gaining more on-the-job work experience. But I would *definitely* recommend it – it’s great fun and I believe it’s widened my career path and will allow me to have better job prospects.

Ella’s ‘top tips’

- Be prepared to live with messy/difficult people.
- Find a job or manage finances well.
- Start assignments early and create good work relationships with tutors, supervisors and lecturers.
- Don’t rule out going to university in your hometown. You’ll still meet lots of new people.
- Don’t miss seminars or lectures. You’ll regret it!

Section B: Directed writing

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0	2
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You have been asked to write a leaflet for students who are about to complete their school or college education.

The aim of the leaflet is to inform and advise students about their next steps after leaving school or college.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the text for the leaflet using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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Write the text for a talk to the students at your school or college about your dream job.

The aim of this talk is to describe your dream job, explaining the reasons for your choice.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the text for this talk using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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