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## GCSE

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

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**Source A:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century non-fiction

*'There is a cure for the NHS: give nurses a pay rise' by Janet Davies*

An article from *The Guardian* newspaper published in 2017.

**Source B:** 19<sup>th</sup> Century non-fiction

Letter by Florence Nightingale in Shaun Usher's *Letters of Note*

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## SOURCE A - 21<sup>st</sup> Century non-fiction

*This is an article published in The Guardian newspaper in 2017. The writer, Janet Davies, explains the current challenges facing nurses in the UK today.*

### **There is a cure for the NHS: give nurses a pay rise**

When money gets tight in the NHS, they go straight for the so-called low-hanging fruit. Politicians and economists who do not understand patient care cut the staffing bill to balance the books. Nurses, as members of one of the largest professions in the NHS, find themselves first in line. Failings at Stafford hospital and other recent scandals have not acted as enough of a deterrent.

- 5 Patients on wards feel the difference, but so does the older person waiting for the district nurse at home and those who visit local clinics. The number of trained nurses available to work for the NHS is getting smaller and hospitals have 40,000 fewer nurses than they say they need.

- 10 The NHS turns 69 on Wednesday and has relied on the best nurses from around the world since it began. Some years ago it became an easy but short-sighted option to recruit ready-made nurses from overseas rather than train our own, with UK training based on what could supposedly be afforded – not what was needed. Consequently, not enough nurses have been trained.

- 15 The government removed student funding from trainee nurses and degree applications for this September have fallen by a quarter, with would-be mature students in particular put off by the prospect of large debts. These students, who bring a wealth of life experience to the job, often make the best nurses and their loss will be felt acutely in the mental health and learning disability sectors.

- 20 British nurses, too, are getting ready to move abroad. Many more are leaving nursing all together – forced out by the poor pay, the unimaginable pressure and a feeling that they are not able to provide the safe care for patients that they want to give. When it pays more to stack supermarket shelves than walk the wards, it is little wonder people are rethinking their career choices. The Department of Health says keeping wages down means hospitals can afford more nurses but the 40,000 vacancies reveal the real impact.

- 25 Now, in the first week since the Royal College of Nursing launched its “summer of protest” over low pay and unsafe staffing, there are encouraging signs that the government is changing direction. There is growing cross-party support for lifting the cap. Jeremy Hunt has told NHS leaders that he is sympathetic.

- 30 When a senior MP was recently asked how a 10% pay rise for MPs was afforded, he said it had been a salary “correction”. Nurses are waiting for the same correction after a 14% real-terms pay cut. For every day that the cap remains in place, the official register of those who can practise as a nurse is hemorrhaging more names than are added. The government must lift this cap and close the gap on lost earnings.

## SOURCE B - 19<sup>th</sup> Century non-fiction

*Florence Nightingale is writing in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century about her experience of being a nurse during the Crimean War.*

I always expected to end my Days as Hospital Matron, but I never expected to be Barrack Mistress. We had but half an hour's notice before they began landing the wounded. Between one and 9 o'clock we had the mattresses stuffed, sewn up, laid down—alas! only upon matting on the floor—the men washed and put to bed, and all their wounds dressed. I wish I had time. I would write you a letter dear  
5 to a surgeon's heart. I am as good as a Medical Times! But oh! you Gentlemen of England who sit at Home in all the well-earned satisfaction of your successful cases, can have little Idea from reading the newspapers of the Horror and Misery (in a Military Hospital) of operating upon these dying, exhausted men. A London Hospital is a Garden of Flowers to it. We have our Quarters in one Tower of the Barrack, and all this fresh influx has been laid down between us and the Main Guard, in two Corridors, with a  
10 line of Beds down each side, just room for one person to pass between, and four wards.

Yet in the midst of this appalling Horror (we are steeped up to our necks in blood) there is good, and I can truly say, like St. Peter, "It is good for us to be here"—though I doubt whether if St. Peter had been here, he would have said so. As I went my night-rounds among the newly wounded that first night, there was not one murmur, not one groan, the strictest discipline—the most absolute silence  
15 and quiet prevailed—only the steps of the Sentry—and I heard one man say, "I was dreaming of my friends at Home," and another said, "I was thinking of them." These poor fellows bear pain and mutilation with an unshrinking heroism which is really superhuman, and die, or are cut up without a complaint.

The wounded are now lying up to our very door, and we are landing 540 more from the Andes. I take  
20 rank in the Army as Brigadier General, because 40 British females, whom I have with me, are more difficult to manage than 4000 men. Let no lady come out here who is not used to fatigue and privation.... Every ten minutes an Orderly runs, and we have to go and cram lint into the wound till a Surgeon can be sent for, and stop the Bleeding as well as we can. In all our corridor, I think we have not an average of three Limbs per man. And there are two Ships more "loading" at the Crimea with  
25 wounded - (this is our Phraseology).

Then come the operations, and a melancholy, not an encouraging List is this. They are all performed in the wards—no time to move them; one poor fellow exhausted with hæmorrhage, has his leg amputated as a last hope, and dies ten minutes after the Surgeon has left him. Almost before the breath has left his body it is sewn up in its blanket, and carried away and buried the same day. We  
30 have no room for Corpses in the Wards. The Surgeons pass on to the next, an excision of the shoulder-joint, beautifully performed and going on well. Ball lodged just in the head of the joint and fracture starred all round. The next poor fellow has two Stumps for arms, and the next has lost an arm and a leg. As for the Balls they go in where they like and come out where they like and do as much harm as they can in passing.