
GCSE - AQA Style

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Insert

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

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

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

Source B: 19th Century non-fiction

A letter from Florence Nightingale in Shaun Usher's *Letters of Note*

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Please turn the page over to see the model answers

02

You need to refer to **source A** and **source B** for this question:

The conditions faced by nurses are challenging.

Use details from **both** sources to write a summary of the differences in the conditions faced by the nurses in Source A and Source B.

[8 marks]

Sample 1

Source A is about the poor conditions faced by nurses as they are paid rubbish money and they don't get the same amount of training that other nurses do so much so that some are now looking to go and nurse "abroad" which tells me that the conditions abroad must be better. Whereas in source B the narrator doesn't moan about pay or training conditions, she is more concerned about the amount of soldiers who are coming into her hospital every day when there isn't the room for them and they are also having to sleep near the patients too but she gets on with it instead of moaning about money and training.

some interpretation, some appropriate references

Sample 2

In source A the conditions faced by nurses are challenging in terms of pay, training and staffing as we see problems of "low pay and unsafe staffing" this shows the nurses are not being treated fairly in relation to other professions and the government are investing into nursing to ensure they are trained to the standard needed. On the other hand, in source B the issues are not about finance and training but more about capacity in that "we have no room for corpses in the wards" highlighting the fact that there might have been an increase in death which is causing challenges. It also shows how little notice the nurses had "we had half an hours' notice before they began landing the wounded" which suggest the nurses are busy but also focused and prepared.

clear interpretation of both texts, relevant textual detail

Sample 3

Source A shows that nurses are treated very unfairly "it pays more to stack supermarket shelves than walk the wards" this suggests that even though nurses have one of the most important jobs in the UK market, they are undervalued and underpaid. The injustice is furthered though the ideas that "many are leaving nursing altogether – forced out by the poor pay" this highlights that nurses who train for years to do something they love like they would rather now be valued for the work they do and "go abroad". In contrast, source B highlights the horrific conditions for nurses during the Crimean War "we are steeped up to our necks in blood" illustrating that this role was more physically draining and distressing due to the sheer volume of soldiers and the "horror and misery of operating" is a necessity and no mention of pay is made. Finally the nurses in source B are challenged by poor physical conditions caused due to the war "just room for one person to pass in between" whereas the nurses in Source A are more challenged by government constraints.

judicious references, some perceptive inferences

03

You now need to refer **only** to **source B** from **lines 1 to 18**.

How does the writer use language to describe her experience as a nurse?

[12 marks]

Sample 1

I think that the writer uses language to show the joy Florence Nightingale felt being a nurse and how she was also very organised and good at her job “at 9 o’clock we had the mattresses stuffed, sewn up, laid down”, this rule of three shows how efficient she was getting ready for the injured. It also uses alliteration. But it is also challenging as she says this “appalling horror” these words are very negative and show how the job was tough to cope with. But she also changes again and says “this is good” which shows she enjoys being a nurse.

some understanding of language, some use of subject terminology

Sample 2

In source B, Florence Nightingale describes her experience of being a nurse as difficult through the use of negative description “these dying, exhausted men” which evokes sympathy from the reader for both the men and the nurses caring for them. The use of the word “these” gives the reader a sense of the scale of the injured and the pressure and workload faced by these nurses. The use of the metaphor “we are steeped up to our necks in blood” implies the nurses are almost drowning in the volume of injured soldiers and struggling to cope. The negativity of the experience is shown through the use of the abstract noun “horror” which connotes something frightening which leads me to believe that the experience of a nurse during the war could be very distressing.

selects a range of relevant detail, accurate use of subject terminology

Sample 3

In source B the writer uses language to express how life changing being a nurse is – not only for her but for her patients too. In the extract we are forced to see how much preparation and time is given “we had the mattresses stuffed, sewn up, laid down” this rule of three effectively captures the physical demands made on the nurses in the war. The verb ‘stuffed’ implies they had to fill the mattresses with whatever they could do to make make-shift beds highlighting their resilience and practical skills. There is a sense of enjoyment conveyed through language such as “there is good” to the job and whilst this is juxtaposed with negative language such as “appalling” and “horror” we again see her pride in being able to command “absolute silence” on her rounds. The intensifier ‘absolute’ reveals her sense of control and experience in being able to settle the wounded despite their pain and injuries. Yet there is also a wistfulness to the language conveyed through the short sentence “I wish I had time” this simple declarative forces the reader to acknowledge the pressure nurses were under in the war and the acute awareness that ‘time’ isn’t something the men or the nurses had on their side.

sophisticated use of subject terminology, judicious detail

04

For this question, you need to refer to the **whole of source A** together with the **whole of source B**.

Compare how the writers convey their ideas and viewpoints on nursing.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different ideas and viewpoints
- compare the methods they use to convey those ideas and viewpoints
- support your ideas with quotations from both texts.

[16 marks]

Sample 1

Source A is about nurses and how they aren't treated very fairly and how the government doesn't appreciate the profession and if they're not careful nurses will move abroad. Source B is about Florence Nightingale being in the War as a nurse and having to work in poor conditions and deal with hundreds of injured soldiers. They are similar because they are both about nurses and both use adjectives and different because one isn't a nurse and one is a nurse.

simple cross reference of ideas, simple identification of method

Sample 2

The writer of source A has a negative viewpoint towards the pay of a nurse while the writer of source B has a more positive view of her job. The first is taken from the view of someone who is trying to look after the state of nursing whereas the second is taken from the actual words of a nurse in the war, this was Florence Nightingale. Source A believes that the state of nursing is disgusting due to the "low pay" whereas even though the nurse in source B has to witness "appalling horror" she believes "there is good". The tone of source A is negative throughout and she criticises the government and how it is failing nurses, she believes unless changes are made soon we won't have nurses in the UK as they are now preferring to "go abroad" whereas in source B Florence Nightingale is negative at the beginning when she says there isn't enough space for all the injured soldiers and they get covered in blood "steeped up to our neck in blood" but then she changes half way though and says "there is good" so the tone does change to a more positive one. Whereas Source A uses negative language to show the depressing state of nursing today "removed, leaving", source B uses negative language to highlight the dreadful injuries the nurses had to contend with "wounded, appalling, horror"

attempts to compare ideas, some comment on how methods are used, some ideas and viewpoints explained

Sample 3

Source A presents the subject of nursing as something driven by money and highlights the negative aspects of the role such as the “low pay” and the “failings” at some hospitals and reduction in “trained nurses”. The tone is one of pessimism “consequently not enough nurses have been trained” highlighting the deterioration of the profession and reinforcing the crisis faced in the UK today. The phrase “not enough” proves how they’re struggling which illustrates the inadequacy of the NHS and its current provision. This draws an emotional response of anger from the reader towards the government and its short sightedness in understanding the value of the nursing profession. However source B presents nursing as a stoic profession. “Yet in the midst of this appalling horror...there is good” literally this presents the nurses as determined and resilient, the juxtaposition of the abstract noun “horror and the adjective “good” shows the optimism and fighting spirit of the war time nurses. Controversially, the points made in source A suggest nurses’ unhappiness and overworking is causing “patients on wards to feel the difference” suggesting perhaps that morale is low which is in contrast to source B where we learn that morale and team work is central to their practice through the use of the personal pronoun “we”. In source A the final point made shows a sense of urgency and determination to the tone “the government must lift this cap. The verb ‘must’ suggests the real need for change before the situation is allowed to worsen.

compares ideas in a clear way, explains clearly how writers’ methods are used

05

A newspaper recently stated: *“Those who work in the emergency services such as doctors, paramedics and nurses deserve much better pay and working conditions.”*

Write a letter to a broadsheet newspaper in which you explain your views on this statement.

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

[40 marks]

Sample response 1

Dear Editor,

I am writing to inform you with my view upon the statement that has been made “Those who work in emergency services such as doctors, paramedics and nurses deserve much better pay and working conditions.”

I personally agree because these workers dedicate their time and effort to help those ones who are possibly injured or in a severely bad place. This is because, those nurses’ doctors and paramedics supply the patients with the medications that they need to stabilise them when they are in a critical condition.

My daughter nearly died last year. Sitting there waiting makes you think... would I have been able to save my daughter’s life without the skills and knowledge that these doctors’ paramedics and nurses have? Would she still be here if they weren’t there in time? Those who work in the emergency services deserve to be here and if they save so many lives, they deserve to be known as important, reliable and the ones you can depend on when you’re not there to prevent the situation.

So therefore this concludes my letter to you. Consider the thought of having that phone call on what you think, is a normal, regular day. Reflect on having your world tipped upside down with just a few words announcing the accident. What if you were in my shoes? Could you depend on yourself to save someone you love, or would you have to depend and rely on someone else? You would have to depend on those skilful and committed doctors, paramedics, nurses and any other emergency services to be there. Because no one would like to have that phone call being told your loved one is in a critical condition would they?

Yours faithfully E Smith

**register generally matched to audience and purpose, vocabulary chosen for effect
most control agreement, range of punctuation used with most success**

Sample 2

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you to tell you that I have read the statement which states “Those who work in emergency services such as doctors, paramedics and nurses deserve much better pay and working conditions”. I have strong views on the matter and would very much appreciate it if you would take the time to read what I have to say.

I personally agree with the fact that people working for the emergency medical services are extremely underpaid to the point where it is almost unbelievable. These people are dedicated to their job which relies on them being committed, independent and hard working on a day-to-day basis helping and saving lives of others. Without doctors, nurses and paramedics we wouldn't have the medication we need for lifesaving operations or the treatment. The emergency services spend most of their own life assisting strangers and helping others, putting them first. Not to mention the qualifications which are needed to successfully become a part of the emergency services, it takes hard work and gratitude. We rely and trust these people with our own lives, without them a lot of us wouldn't be where we are today.

In 2006 I happened to be in a car crash whilst driving to New Jersey with my six year old daughter and my husband, when a van didn't use his indicator when crossing the intersection. My husband and I were left with a couple cuts and bruises, but nothing major however my daughter was left unresponsive and with a bleed on the brain. The ambulance arrived within 5 minutes and gave my daughter the medical treatment which saved her life. She is now as healthy as ever with the help and support from the emergency services who I thank every day for saving her life.

Some people can be left in critical and grave situations and there only hope is being in the hands of the experienced emergency services. They witness things nobody should ever witness and can really affect them mentally, but this doesn't stop them, they get the job done with confidence and maturity. Nobody ever wants to see a friend or significant other left in a critical condition or to suffer with an illness or disease; and with the help of nurses, doctors and paramedics a lot of us don't have to. Now I know they can make mistakes, but doesn't everybody? It is not an easy job and those people who say that they are “overpaid” are ludicrous and mustn't understand how important they really are in this world.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Littler.

**register is consistently matched to audience/purpose,
most control agreement, increasingly sophisticated use of vocabulary**

Sample 3

Dear Editor,

I am a single mother of twins. They drive me up the wall most days but they are still my world. My house is awash with chaos, screams, carnage - but laughter all the same. Yet, this time last year there was no laughter – just fear. My four year olds had woken an hour earlier than usual (7am.) Everybody was tired and the atmosphere was full of negative vibes. I knew it was a mistake leaving them to play Lego whilst I had a quick shower. I heard the gasps. Leo (the first born of the pair) was choking on a single block of Lego. If it wasn't for a paramedic that was walking past on her way to work, I dread to think what would have happened. She saved my son's life. Are the emergency services underpaid and undervalued?

Absolutely! I strongly believe that those who work in the emergency services such as doctors, paramedics and nurses deserve much better pay and working conditions. They save lives and yet some people believe that they don't deserve the best! Do you really think that that is fair? I certainly don't. If it wasn't for them, many of families would have been crushed to pieces; they are literally life savers. Without them, the world wouldn't function. The rate of deaths would increase rapidly and injuries would be left untreated leading to certain fatalities. We must appreciate our emergency services – our heroes! They need to be recognised. They need better pay and better working conditions. It is the least we can do to thank them.

Whilst I do concede that there are those who contest this statement muting views such as “we can't increase the emergency services pay and not the soldiers, they are much more beneficial to the country” I would say whilst yes they do put themselves at risk for us, they too rely wholly on our emergency services. Think of it this way - when a soldier gets injured in a fight, who helps them to recover? Who works overtime to ensure they get the best care? That's right - the emergency services. Without them, who is going to help the injured?

So, back to those pesky twins and more specifically, Leo (my first born). I honestly cannot thank the emergency services enough. And I believe it's time we – as a nation – showed our appreciation too.

Yours sincerely

A Hollingsworth

convincing communication, conscious crafting

wide range of punctuation with high level of accuracy, ambitious vocabulary