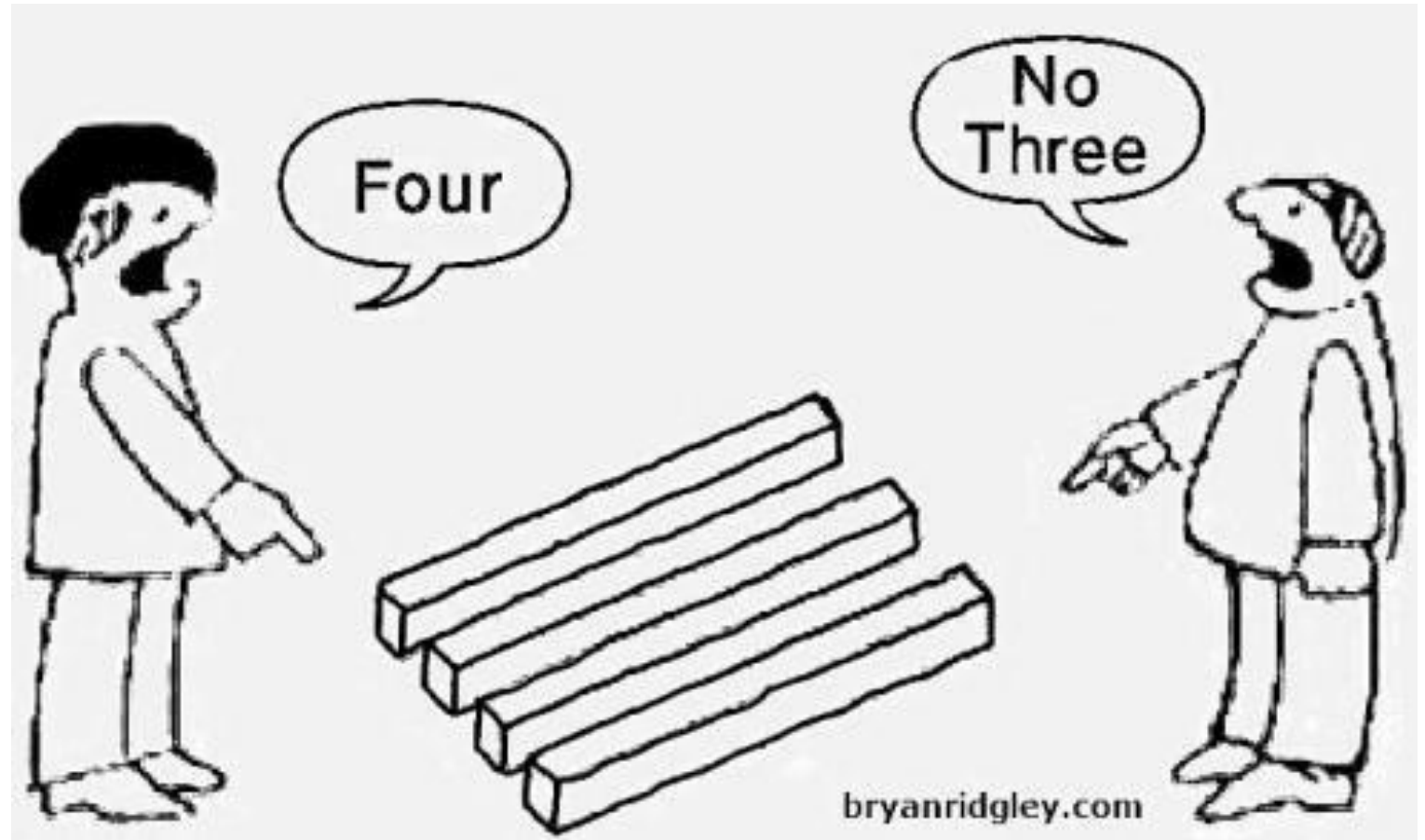


**English  
Language Paper 2:  
Question 4**

Question 4 is all  
about the writers'  
viewpoints.



What do you  
think  
viewpoint is?



Viewpoint is a person's  
opinion or point of view







What might the climbers in the queue be able to see? How might the climbers in the queue be feeling? Why might the climbers have attempted the expedition?



What might the climbers at the top of the mountain be able to see? How might the climbers at the top be feeling? Why might the climbers have attempted the expedition?





Everything  
we see is a  
perspective  
not the  
**TRUTH**

A synonym (another word for) viewpoint is perspective.





The Lady's Dressing Room

Baroness Staffe

DODO  PRESS

In 1892,  
Baroness Staffe  
published a  
book called 'The  
Lady's Dressing  
Room', which  
gave advice to  
wealthy women  
of the time.



Source A is a piece of non-fiction from the 19th Century.

What is the writer's perspective on swimming outdoors?

The best moment for a bathe is high tide: at low tide, or when the tide is coming in or going out, there are certain drawbacks which it would take too long to explain here. One should never enter the sea unless three hours have elapsed since the last meal, so that the digestive organs may be in complete repose.

- It is unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited, if one is suffering from any acute or chronic malady, if one has had a sleepless night, or if one has been undergoing any violent exercise. One should undress slowly, and, once in one's bathing costume, and wrapped in a cloak, it is a good thing to walk a little on the beach, so that the body may be warmed by exercise, and therefore better able to resist the shock on entering the cold water.

- *Sea-Bathing, The Lady's Dressing Room*, Baroness Staffe, 1893



What is the writer's perspective on swimming outdoors?

Outdoor swimming is dangerous and many precautions should be taken

The best moment for a bathe is high tide: at low tide, or when the tide is coming in or going out, there are certain drawbacks which it would take too long to explain here. One should never enter the sea unless three hours have elapsed since the last meal, so that the digestive organs may be in complete repose.

- It is unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited, if one is suffering from any acute or chronic malady, if one has had a sleepless night, or if one has been undergoing any violent exercise.

One should undress slowly, and, once in one's bathing costume, and wrapped in a cloak, it is a good thing to walk a little on the beach, so that the body may be warmed by exercise, and therefore better able to resist the shock on entering the cold water.

- *Sea-Bathing, The Lady's Dressing Room*, Baroness Staffe, 1893



David Walliams swam 140 miles of the River Thames in 2011 for the charity Sports Relief.

Source B is a piece of non fiction from the 21st Century.

What is the writer's perspective on outdoor swimming?

A dark, dark day. After being up all night with diarrhoea and sickness, I felt rough as a dog before I even took to the water. Perhaps it was inevitable that I'd pick up a bug en route – and here it was. “Thames tummy” set in and set me back in a big way.

I just couldn't keep anything down, and dehydration was a serious risk. Burning about 8,000 calories a day meant it was almost impossible to swim with no fuel in my tank, and we had to keep stopping for the medics to check me over. I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on.

*My Epic Thames Swim*, David Walliams, The Telegraph, 2011



What is the writer's perspective on outdoor swimming?

Like Source A, the writer of Source B presents the perspective that outdoor swimming is dangerous, but he focuses more on his strong desire to finish his challenge.

A dark, dark day. After being up all night with diarrhoea and sickness, I felt rough as a dog before I even took to the water. Perhaps it was inevitable that I'd pick up a bug en route – and here it was. "Thames tummy" set in and set me back in a big way. I just couldn't keep anything down, and dehydration was a serious risk. Burning about 8,000 calories a day meant it was almost impossible to swim with no fuel in my tank, and we had to keep stopping for the medics to check me over. I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on.

*My Epic Thames Swim*, David Walliams, The Telegraph, 2011

This question is worth the most marks in Section A of Paper Two and therefore has the most assessment objectives.

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

You must understand the writers' viewpoints of both sources.

You must explore the writers' uses of language in both texts.

You must compare both texts.

This question is worth the most marks in Section A of Paper Two and therefore has the most assessment objectives.

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

You must understand the writers' viewpoints of both sources.

You must explore the writers' uses of language in both texts.

You must compare both texts.

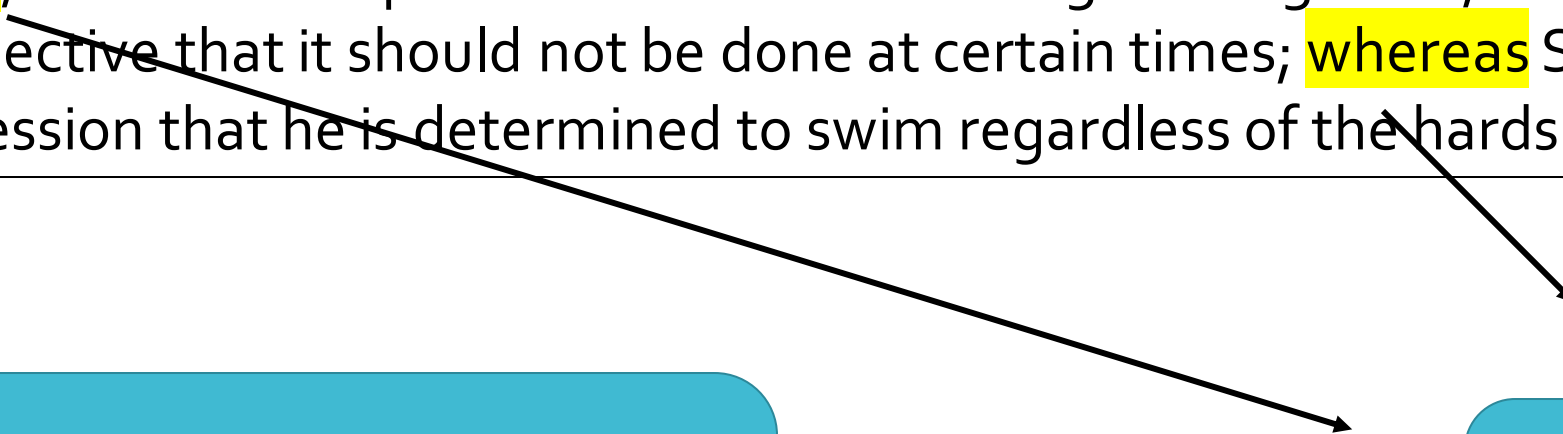
Remember these skills from Question 2 of this paper.



<u>Difference</u>	<u>Source A quotation</u>	<u>Source B quotation</u>
<p>Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.</p>	<p>"It is unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited, if one is suffering from any acute or chronic malady,"</p>	<p>"we had to keep stopping for the medics to check me over. I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on".</p>

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

**Although**, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; **whereas** Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.



1. Begin comparing writer's perspectives straight away.

Don't forget lots of comparing connectives (like in Question 2)

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

2. Remember to explore how the language choices that the writers make create these perspectives.

Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.

In Source A, Baroness Staffe advises that it is "unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited" or if "one is suffering from an acute or chronic malady". Her listing of several different reasons not to swim suggests that it is potentially harmful and by using the adjective "unwise" she is criticising anyone who still swims with one of these conditions, as it means foolish; however, by choosing the softer, more euphemistic "unwise" she is not directly insulting those who may still choose to swim.



Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

Now you explore the language choices made by Walliams in Source B

Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.

Whereas in Source B, Walliams mentions that "medics" have to check him over, so he must suffering from a "malady" (illness), but instead of stopping he says "I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on" .....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

Possible  
answer

Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.

Whereas in Source B, Walliams mentions that "medics" have to check him over, so he must be suffering from a "malady" (illness), but instead of stopping he says "I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on". It is ironic that despite being very ill, Walliams uses the verb "feared" about the outdoor swimming being stopped, not continuing and reinforces this with the adverb "thankfully" when they let him "carry on".

Now you try filling in the quotations for the next row of the table

<u>Difference</u>	<u>Source A quotation</u>	<u>Source B quotation</u>
Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.	"It is unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited, if one is suffering from any acute or chronic malady,"	"we had to keep stopping for the medics to check me over. I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on".
Source A expresses more feelings of warning as it is written as a guide to sea bathing whereas Source B conveys feelings of personal struggle with his swimming the Thames challenge.		

## Possible answers

<u>Difference</u>	<u>Source A quotation</u>	<u>Source B quotation</u>
Although, both sources present outdoor swimming as dangerous, Source A gives the perspective that it should not be done at certain times; whereas Source B gives the impression that he is determined to swim regardless of the hardships.	"It is unwise to bathe if one happens to be very much excited, if one is suffering from any acute or chronic malady,"	"we had to keep stopping for the medics to check me over. I feared they'd pull the plug on the whole thing. Thankfully, despite coming close, they let me carry on".
Source A expresses more feelings of warning as it is written as a guide to sea bathing whereas Source B conveys feelings of personal struggle with his swimming the Thames challenge.	"One should never enter the sea unless three hours have elapsed since the last meal, so that the digestive organs may be in complete repose."	"After being up all night with diarrhoea and sickness, I felt rough as a dog before I even took to the water."



Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

Now try writing the rest of the answer. You must explore how the **language** of both texts presents their feelings.

Source A expresses more feelings of warning as it is written as a guide to sea bathing whereas Source B conveys feelings of personal struggle with his swimming the Thames challenge.

(Note: you will need more space than this.)

Tone =  
general voice /  
attitude of a  
piece  
of writing

List as many different tones as you can:

1. doubtful
2. joyful
3. upset
4. critical

.....

desolate unconcerned playful elated  
harsh encouraging grave jovial  
happy  
doubtful  
exhilarated  
pathetic  
apathetic  
reverent expectant skeptical  
impatient casual  
indirect  
incredulous commanding mirthful  
uneasy  
serious  
biting  
worshipful bewildered  
euphoric  
unfriendly  
sentimental  
pensive insecure  
threatening  
persevering  
greedy solemn  
dantic  
understated  
stressful  
sinister  
strident  
selfish  
modest  
bemused  
flippant poignant  
sympathetic  
adoring  
humorous  
fearful  
comic  
whimsical  
gloomy  
angry  
effusive  
joyful  
insolent  
sardonic  
irreverent  
psychotic  
severe  
optimistic  
respectful  
apprehensive  
compassionate  
scholarly blunt  
contemptuous  
despairing  
questioning  
desperate  
ominous frightened  
ambiguous  
approving  
lethargic  
contemptuous  
appreciative  
scholarly blunt  
compassionate  
melancholy  
straightforward  
haughty  
admiring  
holier-than-thou  
tragic  
inflammatory  
derogatory  
suspicious  
ecstatic  
direct  
paranoid  
gleeful  
self-assured  
patronizing  
outraged  
belligerent  
condescending  
forceful unsympathetic  
confused detached  
antagonistic  
comforting  
pessimistic  
affectionate  
mischievous  
reticent  
bossy  
upset  
tranquil  
delightful  
abhorring  
curt  
deprecating  
evasive  
self-deprecating  
disliking  
laudatory  
annoyed  
uncertain  
diabolic  
friendly  
spritely  
derogatory  
suspicious  
ecstatic  
direct  
paranoid  
gleeful  
self-assured  
patronizing  
outraged  
belligerent  
condescending  
forceful unsympathetic  
confused detached



Tone is a very useful language feature to explore in this question.

Watch the video below and discuss its tone.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fuWfgfP-A-U>

Tone = general voice / attitude of a piece of writing



Now watch this video  
of the same source  
material, but discuss  
its different tone.



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5\\_oAGdFic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2T5_oAGdFic)

Tone = general  
voice / attitude  
of a piece of  
writing

## Possible answer about tone

Compare how the writers present their different perspectives and feelings about outdoor swimming.

Source A expresses more feelings of warning as it is written as a guide to sea bathing whereas Source B conveys feelings of personal struggle with his swimming the Thames challenge. First, in Source A it states "One should never enter the sea unless three hours have elapsed since the last meal, so that the digestive organs may be in complete repose." The tone of this statement is commanding and full of authority, as Baroness Staffe uses the imperative "never". Combined with the very formal, scientific vocabulary of "digestive organs" it makes her sound official and knowledgeable, making people take her advice seriously and not swim if they have just eaten. On the hand, In Source B, Walliams uses a much more informal tone to describe his personal struggles when swimming the Thames. He gives intimate details such as "After being up all night with diarrhoea and sickness, I felt rough as a dog before I even took to the water." His first person narrative voice and the colloquial simile "I felt as rough as a dog" convey how awful he was feeling, as if he were not even feeling human anymore. In addition, this tone of suffering is supported by his repetition of "a dark, dark day", which uses pathetic fallacy to imply that the weather is mirroring his feelings, as it may be "dark" outside, but his mood is even darker and lower.

Watch the following video for a summary of English Language Paper 2 question 3.

- <https://youtu.be/DsWDQw4xwWo>

