



**GCSE**

150/05

**ENGLISH  
HIGHER TIER  
PAPER 1**

A.M. TUESDAY, 8 November 2011

2 hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A 12 page answer book.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions in Section A and **both** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 55 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 25 minutes

Q. B2 – about 40 minutes

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

## SECTION A: 40 marks

Read carefully the passage below. Then answer **all** the questions which follow it.

This passage is set in Canada where two brothers, Arthur and Jake, live with their parents on a remote farm. In this incident they are taking two cows to a neighbouring farm.

They came to the bridge. It was roughly made with poles and ropes and wooden planks, sturdy enough, but the poles were long and had a fair bit of spring in them. Fifteen feet below, Crow River boiled its way over the rocks.

5 'It's really raging,' Jake said, peering down into the foaming water. Arthur tied his cow to the handrail of the bridge. 'We'll take yours first,' he said.

Arthur pushed from one end and Jake pulled from the other. Arthur was saying, 'OK, girl, it's OK,' and Jake was saying, 'Come on you stupid cow!' They got her over in the end and tied her to the rail, and started back across the bridge. Jake stopped in the middle and bounced, experimentally. Arthur grabbed the handrail.

10 'What are you *doing*?' he said.

'I forgot this was so good,' Jake said. 'It really dances.' He leaned over, trying to see underneath the bridge. Arthur reached the other end and stepped onto firm ground. 'See that pole?' Jake said. 'The one underneath? Bet you couldn't go hand over hand – you know, hanging from it. All the way across.'

15 Arthur didn't bother replying.

'Bet you couldn't,' Jake said, grinning at him.

'Let's get this cow across,' Arthur said.

'Bet I could go across, if you're scared to,' Jake said. 'Bet you.'

20 'Bet you.' His favourite phrase since the day he was born. He turned everything – *everything* – into a competition. It seemed so pointless, since he was better than Arthur at everything anyway. He just had to keep proving it.

Jake ran to the end of the bridge and grabbed hold of the pole. The sides of the gorge were steep and at the bottom were slabs of granite with water foaming over them. The water was deep but in places the rocks broke the surface.

25 'I'm going to do it,' Jake said, grinning up at Arthur, who untied the second cow, wondering if he could get her across by himself. He pulled gently and kept moving, walking slowly and encouraging her.

'This is great!' Jake said from underneath them. 'I'm nearly in the middle already. It's great.'

30 Arthur and the cow were nearly in the middle too, but the bridge was moving and Jake's movements were adding to it. The cow staggered. Arthur cursed his brother. 'Damn you,' he said. 'Damn you!'

'Arthur!' Jake said, his voice suddenly different. 'Don't shake the bridge. It's slippery here.' Arthur ignored him. The cow was really scared now, pulling back against the rope.

35 'Come on now,' Arthur said, as gently as he could. The cow tried another step. They were right in the middle now.

Jake didn't seem to be moving at all. 'Arthur! Stop walking! I can't hang on,' he screamed. He must think there was no limit to Arthur's gullibility.

'Arthur!' – panic in his voice – 'I mean it. I can't hang on.'

40 Arthur stopped. He hated his brother. He truly did hate him. This love Jake had for getting himself into situations that might be dangerous and yelling for Arthur to rescue him, and Arthur never knowing whether to believe him, and finally having to believe him for their mother's sake, only to find Jake had been kidding again. Jake *loved* that. Loved proving just how stupid Arthur was. He never got tired of proving it.

45 'Arthur!' – his voice a shriek – 'I'm going to fall'.

'Good,' Arthur said.

The word that would haunt him for the rest of his life. He felt Jake fall. Felt the weight leave the bridge. Just like that. For a moment Arthur was paralysed. He couldn't even draw breath. Then his breath came with a rush and he grabbed the rail and looked over. He expected Jake to be washed downstream but, in fact, he was under the bridge, face up, motionless, wedged

50 between two rocks. Water was streaming around and over him. Over his face.

Arthur didn't remember afterwards how he got to the river. He must have slid down the bank or jumped. He waded into the icy surge, the breath shocked out of him by the cold. He grabbed Jake by the arms and dragged him to the shore. For one ridiculous moment, he wondered if this was another trick, if Jake was playing dead for fun. One further, final joke.  
 55 But Jake's head lolled to one side, and the water streamed out of his nose and mouth in a way that made Arthur cry out in fear.

The bank was too steep to climb so he waded along the edge of the river, the water boiling around him, stumbling over rocks, feet and legs numb. He carried Jake in his arms and then, once he found a way up, he slung him over his shoulder. He thought he was alive but he  
 60 couldn't be sure. And who knew what further injuries he, Arthur, might cause by heaving him over his shoulder. But what else could he do?

At the top he lowered Jake carefully to the ground to check that he was breathing, and he was, so he picked him up again and ran. He could see nothing but his mother's face. How could he walk into the house like this, carrying his brother's body? How could he face her? He  
 65 prayed that his father would be in the farmyard. Please God. Please. Sobbing the words as he ran along.

His prayer was answered. His father saw him coming.

'Tell Mum,' Arthur shouted when his father was close enough. He was crying and it was hard to get the words out. 'Tell Mum. Get the doctor.'

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70 In nightmares, in years to come, scenes from that day came back to haunt him. Jake's face, under water. Jake laid out on the kitchen table and their mother bending over him, her worst nightmares come true. She kept sobbing, 'What happened?' He should have told her then – told her everything – but he couldn't do it. He just said, 'He slipped', and kept saying it, trying to make it true.

75 Just before his father arrived with the doctor, Jake opened his eyes. His lips moved as if he wanted to say something. To damn Arthur, without a doubt. To accuse him. To tell the truth. Tell her, Arthur thought. Tell her what happened. He deserved it. He just wanted it over with. But Jake said nothing. He closed his eyes again and then he was put carefully onto a stretcher and taken away.

80 Arthur was still standing in the middle of the room, going over and over those final seconds on the bridge, trying to replace what happened with what should have happened, what he should have done. Worse still, going over what he had said, that one unbearable, unforgivable word. Trying to unsay it. Desperate to find a way round the unalterable fact that once you have said something, it is said. Once it has left your lips, you cannot take it back.

*(from The Other Side of the Bridge by Mary Lawson, published by Chatto and Windus.  
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**A1. Look at lines 1-21.**

What are your first impressions of Arthur and Jake and the relationship between them? [10]

*You must refer to the text to support your answer.*

**A2. Look at lines 22-45.**

What are Arthur's thoughts and feelings in these lines? [10]

*You should track through the text carefully.*

**A3. Look at lines 46-69.**

How does the writer make these lines dramatic? [10]

**A4. Look at lines 70-84.**

What happens in these lines? How do you react to what happens? [10]

## SECTION B: 40 marks

*Answer Question B1 and Question B2.*

*In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.*

*Take special care with handwriting, spelling and punctuation.*

*A guide to the amount you should write is given for each question.*

- B1.** A group of people is queuing at an ice cream van. Describe the scene in and around the queue. [20]

*You should write about a page in your answer book.*

*Remember that this is a test of your ability to write descriptively.*

- B2.** Choose **one** of the following titles for your writing. [20]

*The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about two pages in your answer book.*

**Either,** (a) Trouble in the street.

**Or,** (b) A fresh start.

**Or,** (c) Write about a time when you cheated.

**Or,** (d) Continue the following:

It was just a small postcard in the newsagent's window but it caught my eye.

**Or,** (e) Write a story that ends with the following:

Mum sat down heavily, looked at me and said, "Well, let's just hope it never happens again."