

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname		Other names	
Centre Number		Candidate Number	
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Pearson Edexcel International GCSE (9–1)

Thursday 21 May 2026

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes) **Paper reference** **4EA1/01R**

English Language A

PAPER 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing

You must have:
Source Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer **ALL** questions in Section A and **ONE** question from Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*
- Plan your answers in the lined spaces provided. Plans will not be marked unless no other response is provided.

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 90.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*
- Quality of written communication, including vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar, will be taken into account in your response to Section B.
- Copies of the *Pearson Edexcel International GCSE English Anthology* may **not** be brought into the examination.
- Dictionaries may **not** be used in this examination.

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.
- You are reminded of the importance of clear English and careful presentation in your answers.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Reading

Answer ALL questions in this section.

You should spend about 1 hour and 30 minutes on this section.

The following questions are based on Text One and Text Two in the Source Booklet.

Text One: *Diving with whale sharks*

1 From lines 14–18, select **two** words or phrases that describe the whale shark.

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(Total for Question 1 = 2 marks)

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In your own words, explain what we learn about the fishermen.

(Total for Question 2 = 4 marks)



(Total for Question 3 = 5 marks)



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Text Two: From *The Explorer’s Daughter*

Remind yourself of the extract from *The Explorer’s Daughter* (Text Two in the Source Booklet).

4 How does the writer, Kari Herbert, use language and structure in **Text Two** to present the people of Thule and their lives?

You should support your answer with close reference to the extract, including **brief** quotations.

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(Total for Question 4 = 12 marks)



Question 5 is based on both Text One and Text Two from the Source Booklet.

5 Compare how the writers present their ideas and perspectives about their experiences.

Support your answer with detailed examples from both texts, including **brief** quotations.

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(Total for Question 5 = 22 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 45 MARKS



SECTION B**Transactional Writing****Answer ONE question in this section.****You should spend about 45 minutes on your chosen question.****Begin your answer on page 15.****EITHER**

- 6** A newspaper article has claimed that we do not always show enough care and respect for animals.

Write a letter to the newspaper giving your views on this.

Your letter may include:

- whether you agree or disagree with this statement
- ways in which we should treat animals
- any other points you wish to make.

Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

(Total for Question 6 = 45 marks)

OR

- 7** 'Many people love to travel, but tourists should consider how they behave when visiting a place.'

Write a leaflet offering information and guidance on how to be a good tourist.

Your leaflet may include:

- the reasons why people might love to travel
- suggestions about how tourists should/should not behave
- any other points you wish to make.

Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

(Total for Question 7 = 45 marks)

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Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

Chosen question number: **Question 6** ☒ **Question 7** ☒

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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 45 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 90 MARKS



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reference**

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English Language A

PAPER 1: Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing

Source Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

READING

Read the following extracts carefully and then answer Section A in the Question Paper.

Text One: *Diving with whale sharks*

In this extract, the writer, Eric Rosen, describes the experience of scuba diving with whale sharks in the Indian Ocean.



Twenty feet below the surface of the Indian Ocean, I bobbed up and down gently as I tried to control my breathing. This was the first dive I had been on since earning my scuba diving certification. Gripping my newly purchased GoPro camera tightly, I scanned the aquascape around me, searching for any sign of the colossal creatures I had come here to see.

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Then I noticed my dive guide waving and pointing just over

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my left shoulder. A whale shark had arrived. I turned to see an enormous mouth coming right toward me. Then an immense, spot-flecked flank¹ glided by, followed by a huge tail the size of my entire body.

During several dives, we saw over a dozen whale sharks ranging from 15-foot juveniles to full-grown adults on what I now consider to be one of the most rewarding days of travel in my life.

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Mysteries of the Deep

Whale sharks are some of the largest and most mysterious creatures on earth. These behemoths² of the blue typically grow to 40 feet in length and can weigh 20 tons — about the same size and weight as your average school bus. Though they have hundreds of tiny teeth in mouths that can be five feet wide, these gentle giants are filter feeders whose diet consists mainly of plankton and small fish.

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Beyond that, little is known about the habits or lives of this endangered species. Mostly solitary, they range thousands of miles through open ocean. That makes it harder to predict exactly when and where whale sharks will show up. Or to avoid hordes of other wildlife enthusiasts who cram into tourist boats and flop into the water to snorkel alongside one of the gigantic beasts when they do appear.

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However, there is one place on earth where you can enjoy a guaranteed swim with these creatures throughout the year: Indonesia's Cenderawasih Bay.

Where the Wild Things Are

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Located along the northern coast of West Papua, about 2,000 miles east of Jakarta, the protected area of Cenderawasih Bay covers some 5,400 square miles and is Indonesia's

largest marine national park. It is part of the Coral Triangle, which is thought to contain over three quarters of the coral species on earth and over a thousand different types of fish.

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Despite its size, there are only a handful of tiny villages in the region where the locals make their living in traditional ways like farming and fishing. The whale shark hotspots tend to be in an area near the village of Kwatisore along a peninsula on the bay's southwest edge and the people there have hit upon a strategy that might just keep commercial fishing at bay in favour of conservation-based tourism.

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The fishermen around here have long regarded whale sharks as lucky since they are thought to keep predators and other sharks away from their traditional floating platforms called *bagans*. It is these fishermen, who put out to sea for weeks or even months at a time on the *bagans*, that have formed a symbiotic³ relationship with the whale sharks.

In the local language, the name for them is *gurano bintang*, which means "star shark" thanks to their distinctive spots, which are unique to each beast and can be used to identify them like a fingerprint.

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Each night, the fishermen lower enormous nets to catch small fish, which they then use to catch larger species. They noticed, however, that the whale sharks were attracted to their nets and would try to suck the baitfish out from them, often becoming tangled and tearing the nets.

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In an effort to protect both their catch and their nets, the fishermen started feeding whale sharks buckets of baitfish off the sides of the *bagans* so they would not go for the fish in the nets.

It wasn't long before both conservation organisations and wildlife travellers took notice and started flocking here to study the sharks. Now, locals can continue fishing as they have always done, but also earn money from the visitors who come to snorkel and scuba dive with the whale sharks. Just in case you think this is a touristic free-for-all, though, both Conservation International and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) are very active in the area and have even taken advantage of the regular sightings to study whale sharks in greater detail than ever before.

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The WWF is also working with the Indonesian government to responsibly develop tourism strategies and a code of conduct for activities involving the whale sharks. So, although visitors can scuba dive with the sharks — which is not the case in most other places where they are found — numbers are limited and divers are extensively briefed on appropriate behaviour around these living natural wonders. That includes no touching, maintaining a respectful distance and only spending brief amounts of time in the water with them each day.

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Planning Your Trip

The journey to Cenderawasih Bay requires a series of short flights within Indonesia. Most people visit the area on a live-aboard boat and stop near Kwatisore to see the whale sharks for one or two days. The boats then continue on to other areas of the bay so guests can snorkel the area's stunning coral reefs and see sunken planes and shipwrecks. They can also visit vibrant villages, and just take in the natural splendour of the area.

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The luxurious five-cabin *Alila Purnama* offers some of the best trips through Cenderawasih Bay. The vessel is a traditional Indonesian wooden sailing ship. This one has all the modern conveniences though, including sumptuously decorated cabins, air

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conditioning, Wi-Fi and made-to-order meals. And of course, there are dive guides who take care of all the details for scuba excursions throughout the voyage.

Between dives and snorkelling stops, the crew is always on hand to whip up smoothies and cappuccinos, arrange the deck chairs for sun-soaked afternoon naps, organise relaxing spa treatments, and prepare candlelit beach banquets among the other delights in store for passengers.

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¹ *flank*: side of the body

² *behemoth*: giant

³ *symbiotic*: mutually beneficial



Text Two: From *The Explorer's Daughter*

In this extract, the writer, Kari Herbert, describes her experiences of watching a hunt for narwhal.

Two hours after the last of the hunters had returned and eaten, narwhal were spotted again, this time very close. Within an hour even those of us on shore could with the naked eye see the plumes of spray from the narwhal catching the light in a spectral play of colour. Two large pods¹ of narwhal circled in the fjord², often looking as if they were going to merge, but always slowly, methodically passing each other by. Scrambling back up to the lookout I looked across the glittering kingdom in front of me and took a sharp intake of breath. The hunters were dotted all around the fjord. The evening light was turning butter-gold, glinting off man and whale and catching the soft billows of smoke from a lone hunter's pipe. From where we sat at the lookout it looked as though the hunters were close enough to touch the narwhal with their bare hands and yet they never moved. Distances are always deceptive in the Arctic, and I fell to wondering if the narwhal existed at all or were instead mischievous tricks of the shifting light. ...

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The narwhal rarely stray from High Arctic waters, escaping only to the slightly more temperate waters towards the Arctic Circle in the dead of winter, but never entering the warmer southern seas. In summer the hunters of Thule are fortunate to witness the annual return of the narwhal to the Inglefield Fjord, on the side of which we now sat.

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The narwhal ... is an essential contributor to the survival of the hunters in the High Arctic. The mattak or blubber³ of the whale is rich in necessary minerals and vitamins, and in a place where the climate prohibits the growth of vegetables or fruit, this rich source of vitamin C was the one reason that the Eskimos have never suffered from scurvy⁴. ... For centuries the blubber of the whales was also the only source of light and heat, and the dark rich meat is still a valuable part of the diet for both man and dogs (a single narwhal can feed a team of dogs for an entire month). Its single ivory tusk, which can grow up to six feet in length, was used for harpoon tips and handles for other hunting implements (although the ivory was found to be brittle and not hugely satisfactory as a weapon), for carving protective tupilaks⁵, and even as a central beam for their small ancient dwellings. Strangely, the tusk seems to have little use for the narwhal itself; they do not use the tusk to break through ice as a breathing hole, nor will they use it to catch or attack prey, but rather the primary use seems to be to disturb the top of the sea bed in order to catch Arctic halibut for which they have a particular predilection⁶. Often the ends of their tusks are worn down or even broken from such usage.

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The women clustered on the knoll of the lookout, binoculars pointing in every direction, each woman focusing on her husband or family member, occasionally spinning round at a small gasp or jump as one of the women saw a hunter near a narwhal. ... Each wife knew her husband instinctively and watched their progress intently; it was crucial to her that her husband catch a narwhal — it was part of their staple diet, and some of the mattak and meat could be sold to other hunters who hadn't been so lucky, bringing in some much-needed extra income. Every hunter was on the water. It was like watching a vast, waterborne game with the hunters spread like a net around the sound.

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The narwhal ... are intelligent creatures, their senses are keen and they talk to one another under the water. Their hearing is particularly developed and they can hear the sound of a paddling kayak from a great distance. That ... was why the hunters had to sit so very still in the water.

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One hunter was almost on top of a pair of narwhal, and they were huge. He gently picked up his harpoon and aimed — in that split second my heart leapt for both hunter and narwhal. I urged the man on in my head; he was so close, and so brave to attempt what he was about to do — he was miles from land in a flimsy kayak, and could easily be capsized and drowned. The hunter had no rifle, only one harpoon with two heads and one bladder. It was a foolhardy exercise and one that could only inspire respect. And yet at the same time my heart also urged the narwhal to dive, to leave, to survive.

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This dilemma stayed with me the whole time that I was in Greenland. I understand the harshness of life in the Arctic and the needs of the hunters and their families to hunt and live on animals and sea mammals that we demand to be protected because of their beauty. And I know that one cannot afford to be sentimental in the Arctic. 'How can you possibly eat seal?' I have been asked over and over again. True, the images that bombarded us several years ago of men battering seals for their fur hasn't helped the issue of polar hunting, but the Inughuit do not kill seals using this method, nor do they kill for sport. They use every part of the animals they kill, and most of the food in Thule is still brought in by the hunter-gatherers and fishermen. Imported goods can only ever account for part of the food supply; there is still only one annual supply ship that makes it through the ice to Qaanaaq, and the small twice-weekly plane from West Greenland can only carry a certain amount of goods. Hunting is still an absolute necessity in Thule.

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¹ *pods*: small groups of whales

² *fjord*: a long, narrow inlet of the sea with steep sides

³ *mattak or blubber*: the fatty skin of the whale

⁴ *scurvy*: a painful, weakening disease caused by a lack of vitamin C

⁵ *tupilaks*: figures with magical powers, charms

⁶ *predilection*: liking



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Source information:

Text One adapted from *Why Diving With Whale Sharks in Indonesia Was One of the Most Rewarding Travel Days of My Life*, Eric Rosen

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