
INTERNATIONAL AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Unit 1 Language and context

Thursday 4 January 2024

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an OxfordAQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book.
- There are **two** sections:
 - Section A: Understanding texts
 - Section B: Directed writing.
- Answer Question 1 from Section A **and either** Question 2 **or** Question 3 from Section B.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for Question 1 and 25 marks for either Question 2 or Question 3.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Section A: Understanding texts

Answer Question 1.

0	1
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Text A and **Text B** are printed on pages **3**, **4** and **5**.

Text A is from a guide book *Absolute Beginners Harmonica* on how to play the harmonica.

Text B is a transcript of Richard talking about learning to play the harmonica and his interest in Blues music.

Examine how the author of **Text A** and the speaker of **Text B** use language to create meanings.

In your answer you should consider different:

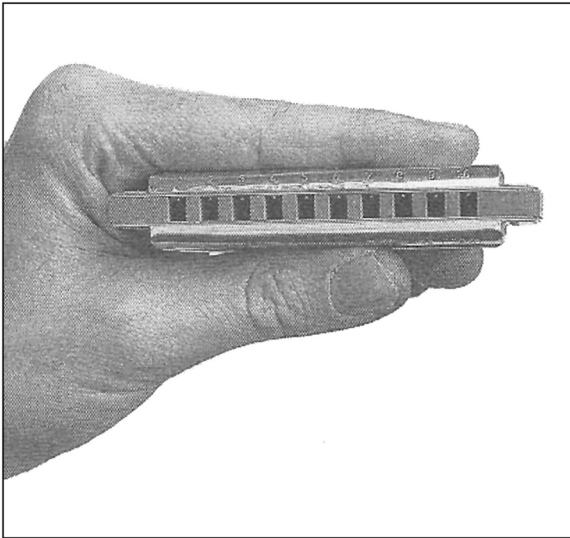
- audiences
- purposes
- genres
- modes of communication.

[25 marks]

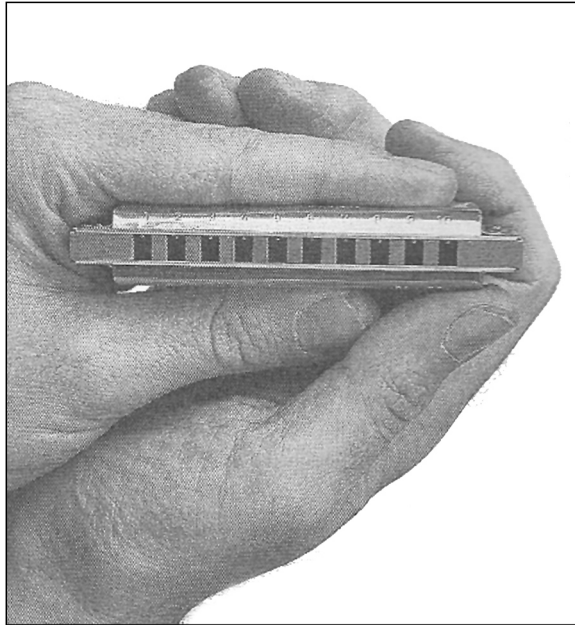
Text A

The first step

Now it's time to play! Hold your harmonica between the thumb and forefinger of your left hand, with the sound holes facing you and the numbers uppermost, like this:



Now place your right hand like this:

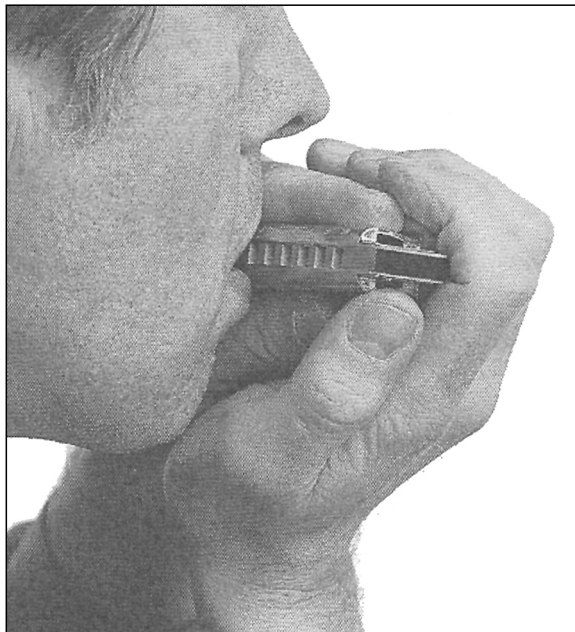


Raise the harmonica to your lips and gently exhale through it. Harmonica books talk about *blowing* and *drawing* the instrument. These are not the best terms because they imply a degree of force – harmonica playing should be relaxed and easy.

Try not to tense up too much, just breathe in and out through the instrument.

Tip

You may find it helps to imagine the sound you are producing as like a ping-pong ball supported on the column of air coming from your lungs, and if you blow too hard the ball will fall (but it won't break – stay relaxed!).



Text A continues on the next page

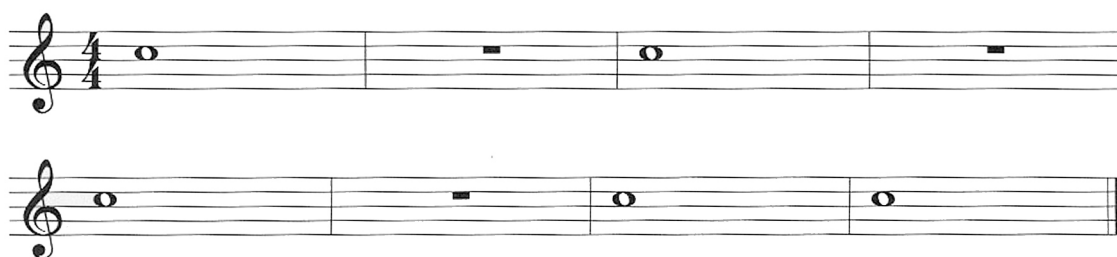
Text A continued

Playing your first piece

The first piece is titled “Playing your first piece”. For your first piece, all you need to do is simply blow for four beats, then rest for four beats. Use any combination of blow notes anywhere on the harmonica, but remember not to play during the rests – it will sound awful if you do! The semibreve notes are only there to show you when to play – you choose which holes to use. Don’t forget to count, as indicated,

and notice that at the end you play two chords (as two or more notes sounded together are called) in successive bars. Listen to **Track 1** to hear how it sounds. You will hear the drummer tapping the time for two bars before the band comes in – this is so that you know how fast your own counting should be.

Now try it yourself with **Track 2**.



Text B

Transcription key:

- (.) pause of less than a second
 (1.0) longer pause (number of seconds indicated)
bold stressed syllable

Richard talks about learning to play the harmonica and his interest in Blues* music

my older brother bought me my first harmonica (.) a Marine Band brand if I remember correctly
 (.) for my thirteenth birthday (.) that's erm well over fifty years ago and I've been playing on
 and off ever since (1.0) at home we had a collection of Blues records (.) some I've still got (.)
 and I learned to love that music (.) **es**pecially those musicians who played the harmonica (.)
 my favourites (.) Sonny Terry (.) Little Walter (.) Jimmy Reed (.) Sonny Boy Williamson (1.0) 5
 over the years I've enjoyed different types of music (.) rock folk jazz (.) but I **a**lways come back
 to the Blues (.) once it's in your soul it never leaves you (1.0) back in the '60s there were no
 tutor books around on how to play the harmonica (.) no google search engine (.) so it was a
 case of listening to the sounds on records (.) and trying to reproduce them as well as you
 could (.) the instrument I play is small and relatively cheap unlike erm a saxophone or trumpet 10
 (.) but you have to learn the techniques and **that's** not easy (.) to achieve that special blues
 sound you have to **bend** the note (1.0) this lowers the pitch of the note which gives that
 plaintive (.) soulful (.) almost **crying** sound associated with the Blues (1.0) It took **months** of
 sweat and perseverance (.) but when it happened erm as if by accident (.) my spine tingled (.)
 I could **do** it (.) I could class myself as a bluesman (1.0) a good friend kept asking me to come 15
 down to the local folk music club and eventually I did (1.0) when **my** turn to play came I
 nervously gave them my version of Sonny Terry's Locomotive Blues (.) I was there playing the
 music I loved (1.0) I now play in a four piece blues band (.) when the band are playing well it's
 as if you're taken **out** of yourself (.) tensions and anxieties dissolve and only the music matters
 (1.0) blues music is often thought of as being **sad** and rather **miserable** but playing and 20
 listening can be a joyful uplifting emotional experience (1.0) the **great** thing about a harmonica
 is that they don't cost much (.) you can carry one in your pocket and practise at any time (.)
 and they'll give you great **pleasure** as you master the techniques (1.0) they're one of the most
expressive instruments around

*Blues – a music genre which originated in southern USA in the early twentieth century

Turn over for Section B

Section B: Directed writing

Answer **one** question from this section.

Either

0	2
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Write an article for the school/college magazine to describe your experience of learning something new or challenging and to persuade others of the benefits.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the text for this article using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
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Your school/college wants to encourage students to try new activities. You have been asked to present an idea for an activity that other students could try.

Write the text for a speech you will give to other students describing the activity and its benefits.

You may use the information and ideas in the material in **Section A**.

Write the text for this speech using about 400 words.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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