

***AQA English Language Paper 2:
Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives***

RAIL DISASTERS



***Two non-fiction texts based on
the same theme or topic***

The Victorian era saw an horrific number of fatal train crashes. The writer Charles Dickens was involved in a train crash in Staplehurst on 9th June 1865 but fortunately survived. Here is his eyewitness account in a letter written to a friend:

SOURCE A

My dear Mitton,

I should have written to you yesterday or the day before, if I had been quite up to writing. I am a little shaken, not by the beating and dragging of the carriage in which I was, but by the hard work afterwards in getting out the dying and dead, which was most horrible.

I was in the only carriage that did not go over into the stream. It was caught upon the turn by some of the ruin of the bridge, and hung suspended and balanced in an apparently impossible manner. Two ladies were my fellow passengers; an old one, and a young one. This is exactly what passed:- you may judge from it the precise length of the suspense. Suddenly we were off the rail and beating the ground as the car of a half emptied balloon might. The old lady cried out "My God!" and the young one screamed. I caught hold of them both (the old lady sat opposite, and the young one on my left) and said: "We can't help ourselves, but we can be quiet and composed. Pray don't cry out." They both answered quite collectedly, "Yes," and I got out without the least notion of what had happened. **5**

Fortunately, I got out with great caution and stood upon the step. Looking down, I saw the bridge gone and nothing below me but the line of the rail. Some people in the two other compartments were madly trying to plunge out of the window, and had no idea there was an open swampy field 15 feet down below them and nothing else! The two guards (one with his face cut) were running up and down on the down side of the bridge (which was not torn up) quite wildly. I called out to them "Look at me. Do stop an instant and look at me, and tell me whether you don't know me." One of them answered, "We know you very well, Mr Dickens." "Then," I said, "my good fellow for God's sake give me your key, and send one of those labourers here, and I'll empty this carriage." **15**

We did it quite safely, by means of a plank or two and when it was done I saw all the rest of the train except the two baggage cars down in the stream. I got into the carriage again for my brandy flask, took off my travelling hat for a basin, climbed down the brickwork, and filled my hat with water. Suddenly I came upon a staggering man covered with blood (I think he must have been flung clean out of his carriage) with such a frightful cut across the skull that I couldn't bear to look at him. I poured some water over his face, and gave him some to drink, and gave him some brandy, and laid him down on the grass, and he said, "I am gone", and died afterwards. **20**

Then I stumbled over a lady lying on her back against a little pollard tree, with the blood streaming over her face (which was lead colour) in a number of distinct little streams from the head. I asked her if she could swallow a little brandy, and she just nodded, and I gave her some and left her for somebody else. The next time I passed her, she was dead. No imagination can conceive the ruin of the carriages, or the extraordinary weights under which the people were lying, or the complications into which they were twisted up among iron and wood, and mud and water. **30**

I don't want to be examined at the Inquests and I don't want to write about it. It could do no good either way, and I could only seem to speak about myself, which, of course, I would rather not do. But in writing these scanty words of recollection, I feel the shake and am obliged to stop. **35**

Ever faithfully, Charles Dickens

SOURCE B: *A newspaper interview with the parents of a woman who was killed in a train crash 15 years earlier known as the Paddington Rail Disaster, which occurred in London on October 5th 1999*

Those present at the scene of the Paddington rail crash have said that the worst memory they have endured over the past 15 years is the sound of mobile phones ringing from the bodies of the dead. Among the scorched metal carcasses of the two trains involved in one of Britain's worst-ever rail disasters, a cacophony of telephones bleeped and buzzed. At the other end of the line were anxious family and friends, their desperation building with each missed call.

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Denman Groves first phoned his daughter, Juliet, at around 8.30am on October 5 1999. He and his wife Maureen had woken up in their home in the village of Ashleworth, near Gloucester, and as usual, switched on the television news. Like the rest of the nation watching that crisp autumn morning, they stared in shock at the plume of smoke rising from the wreckage of the two passenger trains that had collided just outside Paddington station. Neither could even imagine that their 25-year-old daughter might have been on board.

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"I didn't even think she was anywhere near Paddington that day," says Denman. Still, when he left for work, he tried to phone her from the car – just to make sure. There was no answer. "I thought I'd try again, but then I was so busy that I forgot. It wasn't until lunchtime that I called. I still couldn't get an answer, so phoned her company. They said: 'We're afraid she hasn't arrived yet, Mr Groves, and we're very worried.' At that point my heart sank."

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Juliet Groves, an accountant with Ernst & Young, was one of hundreds aboard a Thames Trains commuter service from Paddington station at 8.06am that morning. Petite, pretty and fiercely intelligent – the previous year she had come seventh in the entire country in her chartered accountancy exams, Juliet lived in Chiswick but was travelling by train to Slough, where she was winding up a company. Despite her young age, she was already a specialist in bankruptcy and was being fast-tracked to become a partner in the company. From birth she had suffered from partial blindness and was unable to drive. As a result, she travelled everywhere by rail.

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She was in the front carriage of the train when it passed through a red signal at Ladbrooke Grove and into the path of the oncoming Paddington-bound First Great Western express travelling from Cheltenham Spa in Gloucestershire. Both drivers were killed, as well as 29 passengers, and 400 others were injured. Juliet's body was one of the last to be discovered. She was finally found on the eighth day.

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The outcry that followed led to the biggest-ever safety shake-up of the country's rail network. In 2007, after years of campaigning by the families, Network Rail was fined £4 million for health and safety breaches.

Travelling by train on the same line from Paddington towards Gloucestershire, it is easy to imagine the scene in those carriages seconds before the impact. Passengers gaze out of windows across the snaking railway lines bordered by city scrub. A few talk business into mobile phones; others sip coffees and browse through their newspapers. The disaster, says Network Rail, "simply could not happen today".

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But that promise is not enough for Denman and Maureen Groves. Neither have boarded a British train since the crash, and never will again. Their grief would not allow it, nor the sense of lingering injustice. "I can't do it, I won't do it," says Denman. "I don't want any involvement with Network Rail. The last contact I had with them was at the trial in 2007. I told the chairman he ought to be ashamed of himself."

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Q1: Read lines **4 to 11** of Source **A**.

Choose four statements below which are TRUE.

[4 marks]

- Two carriages did not go over into the stream
- There were two ladies in the carriage with Dickens
- The young lady screamed. The old lady said "My God!"
- Two old ladies were in the carriage with Dickens
- Only one carriage did not go over into the stream
- The old lady screamed. The young one said "My God!"
- Dickens told the ladies to be quiet and calm down

Q2: Refer to Source A **and** Source B. Write a summary of the **differences** in the writers' **viewpoints** of the rail disasters they each describe.

[8 marks]

Q3: Refer to Source **A**.

How does Charles Dickens use **language** to convey his thoughts and feelings about the disaster?

[12 marks]

Q4: Refer to Source A **and** Source B.

Compare how the writers present their different **perspectives** of the national railway disasters they describe.

[16 marks]

In your answer, you should:

- compare their different perspectives
- compare the methods they use to convey their attitudes
- support your ideas with quotations from both texts

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about **45 minutes** on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

Q5

“The government should invest more money in public transport as there are so many good reasons to use it.”

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper, explaining your views on this statement.

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

[40 marks]

**AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2:
Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**

NURSING: THEN AND NOW



***Two non-fiction texts based on
The same theme or topic***

SOURCE A:

Florence Nightingale was a nurse during the Crimean war, when Britain and France went to war with Russia for two years in 1854.

In this extract, she describes her role nursing wounded soldiers:

A message came to me to prepare for 510 wounded on our side of the Hospital who were arriving from the dreadful affair of the 5th November from Balaklava, in which battle were 1763 wounded and 442 killed, besides 96 officers wounded and 38 killed. I always expected to end my Days as Hospital Matron, but I never expected to be Barrack Mistress. We had but half an hour's notice before they began landing the wounded. Between one and 9 o'clock we had the mattresses stuffed, sewn up, laid down—alas! Only upon matting on the floor—the men washed and put to bed, and all their wounds dressed. I wish I had time. I would write you a letter dear to a surgeon's heart. I am as good as a Medical Times! But oh! you Gentlemen of England who sit at home in all the well-earned satisfaction of your successful cases, can have little idea from reading the newspapers of the horror and misery in a Military Hospital of operating upon these dying, exhausted men. A London Hospital is like a Garden of Flowers compared to it.

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We have our Quarters in one Tower of the Barrack, and all this fresh influx has been laid down between us and the Main Guard, in two Corridors, with a line of beds down each side, just room for one person to pass between, and four wards. Yet in the midst of this appalling horror (we are steeped up to our necks in blood) there is some good, and I can truly say, like St. Peter: "It is good for us to be here"—though I doubt that if St. Peter had been here, he would have said so. As I went my night-rounds among the newly wounded that first night, there was not one murmur, not one groan, the strictest discipline—the most absolute silence and quiet prevailed—only the steps of the Sentry—and I heard one man say: "I was dreaming of my friends at Home," and another said, "I was thinking of them." These poor fellows bear pain and mutilation with an unshrinking heroism which is really superhuman, and die, or are cut up without a complaint.

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The wounded are now lying up to our very door, and we are landing 540 more from the Andes. I take rank in the Army as Brigadier General, because 40 British females, whom I have with me, are more difficult to manage than 4000 men. Let no lady come out here who is not used to fatigue and privation. Every ten minutes an Orderly runs, and we have to go and cram lint into the wound till a Surgeon can be sent for, and stop the Bleeding as well as we can. In all our corridor, I think we have not an average of three Limbs per man. And there are two Ships more "loading" at the Crimea with wounded—(this is our Phraseology). Then come the operations, and a melancholy, not an encouraging List is this. They are all performed in the wards—no time to move them; one poor fellow exhausted with hæmorrhage, has his leg amputated as a last hope, and dies ten minutes after the Surgeon has left him. Almost before the breath has left his body it is sewn up in its blanket, and carried away and buried the same day. We have no room for Corpses in the Wards. The Surgeons pass on to the next, an excision of the shoulder-joint, beautifully performed and going on well. Ball lodged just in the head of the joint and fracture starred all round. The next poor fellow has two Stumps for arms, and the next has lost an arm and a leg. As for the Balls they go in where they like and come out where they like and do as much harm as they can in passing.

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SOURCE B: Article taken from www.nursingtimes.net, May 7th 2014

The majority of NHS nurses feel underpaid, overworked and undervalued, according to a survey carried out jointly by Nursing Times and ITV.

More than eight of 10 nurses said they did not have enough time to give patients adequate care and a quarter believed they had put a patient's life at risk because they were too busy or overworked. Staff shortages and too much paperwork were the most common factors stopping nurses from doing their job properly, they said.

The survey results were due to be featured this week in ITV's breakfast programme Good Morning Britain, as part of a special edition on nursing. The findings are a stark reminder of the everyday pressures faced by frontline nursing staff, and their view that staffing remains the key factor in ensuring patient safety. Despite an increasing recognition by many hospital trusts that they need to recruit more nurses, the findings suggest there is still a long way to go. This was further confirmed last week when persistent staff shortages were cited as a major factor for Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals Foundation Trust being placed in "special measures" by healthcare regulators.

Around two-thirds of respondents, 66%, said they worried about the level of care that their ward, hospital or clinic could give to patients outside normal working hours. A similar percentage said their ward, hospital or clinic could not function at night, weekends or Bank Holidays without using agency staff. A massive 96% of respondents said there is too much paperwork in the NHS, in spite of ongoing efforts to reduce it, for example by improving technology, and it being a government priority that is often name-checked in ministerial speeches.

In addition, 76% of survey respondents said they did not feel valued by their manager and 86% said they did not get paid enough money for the job they do. A possible concern is that a significant chunk of respondents lacked confidence in their own work environment. Asked whether they would be happy to be a patient in the ward, hospital or clinic where they worked, 57% "yes" but 43% said "no". Meanwhile, when asked whether they would encourage their own child to go into nursing, based on their experience, 73% of participants said "no", while only 27% answered "yes".

Although, the survey results highlighted the struggles faced by nurses, respondents remained positive about their motivation. One nurse said: "My job is great and I love it, when I am given the opportunity to do it well," while another stated: "Although my responses are negative, I love my job." A further respondent said: "Despite all the pressures, the public should understand that as nurses we do try our best."

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Q1: Read lines **1 to 11** of **Source A**.

Choose **four** statements below which are TRUE.

[4 marks]

- 510 wounded soldiers arrived at the same time
- 442 were killed in the Battle of Balaklava
- There were not enough bandages to dress wounds
- The nurses had only 30 minutes to prepare
- The men were washed before being put to bed
- 176 were wounded in the Battle of Balaklava
- Florence Nightingale is a Hospital Matron

Q2: Refer to **Source A and Source B**. Write a summary of the **differences** in the writers' attitudes to nursing.

[8 Marks]

Q3: Refer to **Source B**.

How does the writer use **language** to convey their opinions of the state of the NHS.

[12 Marks]

Q4: Refer to **Source A and Source B**.

Compare how the writers convey their attitudes to nursing.

In your answer, you should:

- compare their attitudes
- compare the methods they use to convey their attitudes
- support your ideas with quotations from both texts

[16 Marks]

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about **45 minutes** on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

Q5

“Nurses deserve much better pay and working conditions in recognition of the vital work they do in saving lives, day after day.”

Write a letter to your local MP in which you explain your views on this statement.

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

[40 marks]