

**Tuesday 4 November 2014 – Morning****GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (NI)****A633/01/RBI** Information and Ideas (Foundation Tier)**READING BOOKLET INSERT****Duration: 2 hours****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

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## AMY JOHNSON: QUEEN OF THE SKIES



Amy Johnson was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia. Her epic flight took place in 1930. At the age of 26, Amy set out from Croydon in England on Monday 5th May 1930 and arrived in Darwin, Australia on Saturday 24th May after a journey that had taken nineteen and a half days.

She had endured all that the weather had thrown at her: monsoon rains, tremendous heat, and desert sandstorms. She had to contend with dangerous mountain terrain, vast expanses of desert and finally the crossing of the shark-infested Timor Sea. She suffered terrible feelings of sickness caused by escaping fumes from the fuel on board. Her skin was blistered and burnt, and she was often exhausted from a lack of sleep.

The wheels of the travel-stained Gipsy Moth plane, called 'Jason', bumped down the grassy field of what passed for a runway at the Fannie Bay racecourse, near Darwin – and a legend was born. It was amazing that a woman could enter into what had been a male-dominated profession and complete a solo flight in an open-cockpit plane over a distance of 11,000 miles in nineteen and a half days.

Amy received an ecstatic welcome on landing in Australia. She received hundreds of telegrams and fan mail from around the world. The fact that she was quite an inexperienced pilot only added to the admiration people felt for the bravery she had shown. She had managed to fly without the help of radio or navigational instruments – items that are considered essential in flights today.

This unknown young woman was to become an international star and icon. She was so much idolised that songs were written about her; baby girls, schools, roads, airports and even a rose were named after her. More importantly, the people took her to their hearts.

The cheers continued as she went on to complete five further major flights during the 1930s. Record-breaking flights to India, Japan and alone across the Sahara Desert to the Cape of Africa on two occasions – all these captured the world's attention. When she married the popular aviator Jim Mollison in 1932, they became a unique couple in the history of flying. The noisy and enthusiastic welcome they received in New York, after they made their first direct flight from the UK to the USA, confirmed their status as international stars.

The following text is from a newspaper article at the time of the 2012 Olympics. It is about Jessica Ennis, the winner of the heptathlon – a sporting contest made up of seven events.

## QUEEN OF THE GAMES

*Jessica Ennis was the undeniable darling of the Olympic crowd. Cole Moreton watched the girl from the steel city of Sheffield add gold to her glittering reputation.*



**The Golden Girl of Athletics turned out to be everything she promised, and more.**

Jessica Ennis won the heptathlon in the Olympic Stadium in a dazzling performance. It was a show-stopper more than worthy of all the attention showered on her – the Face of the 2012 Olympic Games.

Fittingly, for someone who had inspired so much love and affection in people across the country, her moment of glory came during prime time television viewing on a Saturday night. We already knew she had a winning smile. Now we saw her as a supreme athlete, beating the world.

The heptathlon takes place over two gruelling days, and involves seven events. There were times when it looked like this tiny but ultra-tough athlete would stumble. For all the expectations, the result was no sure thing.

Ennis did not quite reach the heights she expected in the high jump. She was then some way from putting the shot as far as she wanted. Going into the last event of the first day, she was in second position overall.

It got worse. Midway through the 200 metres she was way behind her Dutch rival, Dafne Schippers, and it seemed over. She had failed to live up to the hype.

But in the final seconds of the race, Ennis said, 'No'. She wasn't going to let it happen. This was her story, and it was not going to be taken away from her.

So now, all the long hours of training came into play. Now we saw the grit of the girl who took up one of the most demanding track and field sports of all.

Ennis chased down her nearest rival from an impossible distance, and matched her on the line in a dead heat. She seemed to have done it with nothing more than logic-defying determination.

By the end of the second day, Ennis was in the lead going into the last event in the heptathlon – the 800 metres race. Experts were predicting victory and she even allowed herself to contemplate breaking the Olympic record of 7,000 points. 'I've got to run two minutes five seconds to do that and it's a tough time – but I'll see what I've got in my legs and go for it,' she said.

Ennis was roared on by the crowd for every stride of the 800m. She exploded to the front when the starting gun went off and stayed there for much of the first lap. Briefly, she was overtaken, but then

she powered ahead and opened an unbeatable lead over the rest of the field – a winner to the end.

As she approached the line, she raised her hands in the air, and after she had crossed began to cry.

‘The crowd are going wild, I’ve never seen anything like this,’ said Denise Lewis, the last

great British heptathlete. ‘We have witnessed greatness.’

For a moment after the race, Ennis was overcome, lying on her back near the finishing line. The cheers and screams went on and on and intensified as Ennis got up and held a UK flag above her head.



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