



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

# GCSE (9–1) English Language

**J351/01** Communicating information and ideas

Reading Insert

**Tuesday 5 June 2018 – Morning**

**Time allowed: 2 hours**



**You must have:**

- the Question Paper

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- The materials in this Reading Insert are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.

**INFORMATION**

- This document consists of **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.



**Details of text extracts:**

**Text 1**

Text: adapted from *Walden, or Life in the Woods*

Author: Henry David Thoreau (1854)

**Text 2**

Text: adapted from *Journey to the Ants*

Authors: Bert Holldobler and Edward O. Wilson (1994)

## Text 1

*The poet Henry David Thoreau moved into a cabin he built for himself next to a lake in America. He lived there alone for two years, growing his own food and observing the natural world.*

One day, when I went to my wood-pile, I observed two large ants, the one red, the other black and much larger, fiercely contending with one another. Having once got hold they never let go but struggled and wrestled and rolled incessantly.

5 Looking farther, I was surprised to find that the woodchips were covered with such combatants, that it was a war between two races of ants, and that the red were always pitted against the black. The ants covered all the hills and vales in my woodyard, and the ground was already strewn with the dead and the dying. It was the only battle which I have ever witnessed, the only battlefield I have ever trod, while the battle was still raging. On every side the ants were engaged in deadly combat, yet without any noise that I could hear, and human soldiers never  
10 fought so resolutely.

I watched a couple of ants that were locked in each other's embraces, prepared now at noonday to fight till the sun went down or life went out. They fought with more pertinacity than bulldogs. Neither manifested the least disposition to retreat. It was evident that their battle cry was conquer or die. In the meanwhile, there came along a single red ant. He saw this unequal  
15 combat from afar – for the black ant was nearly twice the size of the red – and drew near with rapid pace till he stood on his guard within half an inch of the combatants. Then, watching his opportunity, he sprang upon the black warrior.

I was myself excited even as if they had been men. The more you think of it, the less the difference. Certainly, there is not a fight recorded in history that will bear a moment's comparison  
20 with this, whether for the numbers engaged in it, or for the patriotism and heroism displayed. I picked up the woodchip on which the three ants I have described were struggling and carried it into my house, and placed it under a glass tumbler on my window-sill in order to see the outcome.

They struggled half-an-hour longer under the tumbler and, when I looked again, the black soldier  
25 had severed the heads of his foes from their bodies. The still-living heads were hanging on either side of him like ghastly trophies and he was endeavouring with feeble struggles to divest himself of them, which, at length, after half-an-hour or more, he accomplished. I raised the tumbler, and he went off over the window-sill in that crippled state. Whether he finally survived that combat and spent the remainder of his days in a rest home for war veterans I do not know.

30 I never learned which party was victorious, nor the cause of the war, but, for the rest of that day, I felt as if I had had my feelings excited and harrowed by witnessing the struggle, the ferocity and the carnage of a human battle before my door.

**Text 2**

*The scientist Edward Wilson has studied the lives of ants for many years. Here Edward describes how his friend Bert developed an interest in the natural world.*

Adapted from B Hölldobler, E O Wilson, 'Journey to the Ants: A Story of Scientific Exploration', page unknown, Harvard University Press, 1994. Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions.





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