

SECTION A – Reading spoken and written non-fiction

Read the **two** text extracts from your anthology and **answer the question**.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on this section.

Text A is a transcript of an extract from Jeremy Paxman’s 2008 TV interview with Valerie Amos and Dizzee Rascal commenting on Barack Obama’s election as the first black President of the United States.

Text B is an extract from Russell Brand’s evidence to a 2012 Parliamentary Select Committee examining drugs policy.

- 1 Compare the ways in which the speakers use language to express their opinions and to present their experiences.

In your answer you should consider:

- context
- mode and genre
- purpose and audience.

[30]

Text A

- JEREMY PAXMAN:** Dizzee Rascal. How does it seem to you?
- DIZZEE RASCAL:** It's positive, I think it's positive because he's mixed race as well, so he's an immediate, immediate symbol of unity. And I think, know what, hip-hop played a big part in this as well. I don't think he could have won it without hip-hop. Hip-hop is what encouraged the youth to get involved in voting and making the place better and he is the first president to embrace it.
- JEREMY PAXMAN:** Specifically?
- Sorry to sorry to interrupt you, but specifically could you see this happening in Britain?
- DIZZEE RASCAL:** Yeah. In time.
- JEREMY PAXMAN:** You're rather positive!
- DIZZEE RASCAL:** Yeah, man. Why not, man? There's a first time for everything, isn't there? Everything just takes time man if you believe you can achieve, innit?
- JEREMY PAXMAN:** Valerie Amos there are some people who say there is a different kind of social dynamic at work in the United States, ah that it is much more built upon the possibility of achievement. The American dream is founded on the idea of betterment for the individual despite this long history of racial discrimination. Is that a different dynamic to the one we find in our society?
- VALERIE AMOS:** Jeremy I think that's true. I think there is a language in America which is much more about er dreaming and hoping and it's much less cynical than the kind of language that we use here. Having said that I think that Barack Obama has tapped into something which is not just about America. And it's become truly aspirational in terms of what our own young people think is possible. Now I think there's a great deal more that we have to do in terms of the systems within our political parties, how we nurture people, encourage them to come through. It won't just happen without that kind of action. But I do feel much more optimistic today than I would have done two days ago.
- JEREMY PAXMAN:** Dizzee Rascal, do you believe in political parties in Britain?
- DIZZEE RASCAL:** Yeah, they exist. I believe in 'em. I don't know if I care. I mean I don't know if it makes a difference. But you know what I mean. It is what it is. Politicians are gonna say what they say – you might get every now and again the genuine one, innit? But like I think people, like, as a whole make the difference. I don't think one person or one party can make a difference.

Text B

- Q237 CHAIR:** Good morning, Mr Brand.
- RUSSELL BRAND:** Good morning.
- CHAIR:** Please have a seat. Mr Brand, Mr Somers, thank you for giving evidence to the Committee's inquiry into drugs. Mr Russell Brand, you gave written evidence to this Committee, which Members of the Committee have read. Could I start with a point about what you say in your evidence that you disagree with the legalisation of drugs because you think that a deterrent effect is necessary, is that right?
- RUSSELL BRAND:** I don't feel entirely qualified to talk about legislation. For me, what is more significant is the way that we socially regard the condition of addiction. It is something that I consider to be an illness and, therefore, more a health matter than a criminal or judicial matter. As I said, I don't think legalisation is something that I am particularly qualified to get into. In fact, I can see areas where decriminalisation might be considered useful and more efficient in countries, like Portugal or Switzerland, where there have been trials. It seems to have had some efficacy. But for me it is more important that we regard people suffering from addiction with compassion and that there is a pragmatic rather than symbolic approach to treating it. The legislative status of addiction, and the criminalisation of addicts, is kind of symbolic and not really functional. I don't see how it especially helps, but I am not saying, 'Let's have a wacky free-for-all, let people go around taking drugs'. It didn't help me much.
- Q238 CHAIR:** You are a former heroin addict.
- RUSSELL BRAND:** Yes.
- Q239 CHAIR:** Briefly, could you tell us how you got on to drugs and then how you managed to come off it, and how many years you were on hard drugs?
- RUSSELL BRAND:** I see you have incorporated the word 'briefly' now into the question. As you already know, it is my propensity for verbosity. I became a drug addict, I think, because of emotional difficulties, psychological difficulties and perhaps a spiritual malady. For me, taking drugs and excessive drinking were the result of a psychological, spiritual or mental condition, so they are symptomatic. I was sad, lonely, unhappy and detached, and drugs and alcohol for me seemed like a solution to that problem.
- Once I dealt with the emotional, spiritual, mental impetus, I no longer felt the need to take drugs or use drugs. Actually, I got clean at Chip Somers' facility, Focus 12, which is abstinence-based recovery. That is what we essentially believe in: if you have the disease or the illness of addiction or alcoholism, the best way to tackle it is to not use drugs in any form, whether it is state-sponsored opiates, like methadone, or illegal street drugs, or a legal substance like alcohol. We see no distinction between these substances. What we believe in is that abstinence-based recovery is the best solution, for people suffering from this condition, and that support structures exist to get people to maintain recovery – abstinence-based recovery. What we want is more research and funding into abstinence-based recovery and to be able to filter people towards this new lifestyle where, actually, criminalisation becomes less of an issue, in my view, because it takes people that have to indulge in criminal activity to fund their habits and gets them into being valuable members of society.
- Was that brief enough?

SECTION B – Writing non-fiction

Answer **one** question from Section B.

You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on this section.

Either

- 2 Write the script for a speech to a group of first-time voters. Your purpose is to persuade them that they can make a difference by becoming involved with politics. **[20]**

Or

- 3 Write a magazine article giving your opinion on the way some celebrities use public appearances to give their views on current issues. **[20]**

Or

- 4 Write an article for a newspaper exploring the question ‘Should drug addicts be imprisoned or treated?’ **[20]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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