

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

SET E

Insert

The two sources that follow are:

Source A: 19th Century non-fiction

The Great Stink Continues

A newspaper article from *The Times* published in 1858

Source B: 21st Century literary non-fiction

Fatbergs: 90% of London restaurants are contributing to problem

An newspaper article from *The Guardian* published in 2017

Source A

In 1858 the River Thames had become very polluted with human sewage and industrial waste. It had been a problem for a few years, but the particularly hot weather that summer created a terrible smell across London known as the 'Great Stink'. Source A is taken from a newspaper article published in June of that year.

What a pity it is that the thermometer fell ten degrees yesterday! Parliament was all but compelled to legislate upon the great London nuisance by the force of sheer stench. The intense heat had driven our legislators from those portions of their building which overlooked the river. A few members, indeed, bent upon investigating the subject to its
5 very depth, ventured into the library, but they were instantaneously driven to retreat, each man with a handkerchief to his nose.

We are heartily glad of it. It is right that our legislators should be made to feel in health and comfort the consequences of their own disregard of the public welfare. It is their fault that the River Thames has not long since been purified. The immediate blame
10 may, of course, be saddled upon THWAITES CUNCATOR and the Board of Works; but the power of driving them to action has remained throughout with Parliament. As long as the nuisance did not directly affect themselves noble Lords and hon. Gentlemen could afford to disregard the safety and comfort of London; but now that
15 they are fairly driven from their libraries and committee-rooms – or, better still, forced to remain in them, with a putrid atmosphere around them – they may, perhaps, spare a thought for the Londoners.

It is most providential that the Houses of Parliament have been built in a situation where they are peculiarly affected by the effluvia of the polluted stream. We can bear the calamities of our neighbours with remarkable self-possession, but when the black
20 ox sets his hoof upon our foot it is wonderful how filled we are with sympathy for all mankind.

The story of the wretched creatures who lay pining and languishing with typhus fever in its various appalling forms on the banks of our filthy river fell harmless upon the ears of gentlemen who could retire at their pleasure to their country houses. Their senses
25 were never affected, their stomachs were never turned, by the stench which emanates from the river, and from the seething mud which it leaves bare at low water. Of course, all was well. On Wednesday, when the heat was overpowering, they began to imagine that there was something, after all, in the popular outcry. Conviction rose with the quicksilver in the thermometer.

There was a reasonable prospect that, had the heat continued at its full intensity but a few days longer, the two Houses would have summoned their last energies to pass some sort of Bill even this Session which would have convinced the Board of Works that their action was not intended to be purely obstructive. We wish no ill to Mr.
30 SPEAKER, but if he and two or three of the leading members on either side of the House had only a mild attack of Parliament fever, a remedy would soon be found.
35

The present idea is that nothing is to be done until next year. How many years has the subject been under consideration, while the Board of Works has been “referring” plans and squabbling with the Commissioner for the time being! It is absurd to say that there
40 is any reluctance on the part of the Londoners to meet the necessary outlay for the execution of this great work. If there be a question as to what part of London ought to pay and what part should be thrown on the Exchequer, Parliament is sitting, and the point may be disposed of at once. There can be no doubt that any practical engineer, accustomed to deal with works of importance, would in a very few months have
45 resolved upon the best plan of which the circumstances admit; but under the present system years have elapsed, and nothing has been done. Shall the sewage be utilized or not? Shall the outfall be at this point, or at that?

Surely, questions such as these, and two or three others of the like nature, are not impossible of solution. They must be solved at last, and why not now, as well as three
50 years hence? Suppose the cholera, or some new form of pestilence, should come upon us during the heats of summer or autumn, we should have no great reason to be thankful to Mr. FABIOUS THWAITES and his friends, or to Parliament, which has quietly looked on while they did nothing. It would not be amiss to deal with the Boards of Works as we do with a jury which cannot be brought to hand in a decisive verdict. Let
55 them be confined in a river steamer and compelled to ply, without intermission, between London and Vauxhall bridges until they have agreed upon a plan, or the last man of their number has been summoned away to regions where the stench which they have protected can trouble them no more.

Turn over for Source B

Source B

A fatberg is a congealed mass in a sewage system created by non-biodegradable solid matter, such as wet wipes, and congealed grease or cooking fat. They are a particular problem in London because of ageing Victorian sewers. Source B is taken from a newspaper article published in 2017.

Oil and food scraps are finding their way into pipes and drains as the majority of eateries have no grease traps.

- 5 The vast majority of London restaurants and takeaways are responsible for feeding the fatbergs that are choking the capital's sewers, according to survey
- 10 findings that Thames Water called "staggering".



Ninety per cent of eateries in London are contributing to the problem by failing to install grease traps, the report found. As a result, grease, oil and food scraps washed off plates, utensils and saucepans are finding their way into pipes and drains.

- 15 The issue hit the headlines last month when a 130-tonne fatberg, described as a "total monster" by Thames Water, was found under Whitechapel Road in east London. The company found that no restaurants on the road had a working grease trap.

- 20 Stephen Pattenden, sewer network manager for Thames Water, said: "We're not suggesting anyone intentionally pours the contents of a fat fryer down the drain, but it's more about the gunk that comes from dirty plates, pots and pans. A simple, well-maintained grease trap will capture that stuff and stop it entering the sewer and turning into a monster fatberg."

The Whitechapel fatberg was 250 metres long – longer than Tower bridge – and weighed as much as 19 African elephants.

- 25 Workers armed with high-powered jets and shovels have been toiling seven days a week to break up the blockage, with work continuing into this month to repair the damage it caused to the Victorian sewer system.

- 30 If the fatberg had not been discovered during a routine inspection last month the congealed mass of fat, wet wipes and nappies would have risked sending raw sewage flooding on to the streets of east London.

Thames Water said it spent about £1m a month on unblocking sewers.

Pattenden said restaurants that failed to install grease traps and other measures faced prosecution if they didn't make required changes.

- 35 Despite the time and expense of clearing the Whitechapel fatberg, it will be converted into about 10,000 litres of biodiesel – enough to power 350 double-decker Routemaster buses for a day – Thames Water said.
- 40 Tanker-loads of the “evil, gut-wrenching, rancid blob”, as Thames Water waste network manager Alex Saunders described it, have been taken to a specialist plant run by Argent Energy to be processed into the fuel, which burns more cleanly than regular diesel.
- He added: “Previously, we’ve either extracted the fatberg out of the pipes and sent it to landfill, or broken it down and put it back through the sewage treatment process. Even though they are our worst enemy, bringing fatbergs back to life when we do find them, in the form of biodiesel, is a far better solution for everyone.”
- 45 Thames Water is also promoting its “bin it – don’t block it” campaign to encourage residents not to flush items such as baby wipes, nappies, cotton buds and sanitary products down the toilet.
- 50 Even though many brands of wet wipes claim to be flushable, they do not break down nearly as much as toilet paper and play a major part in creating fatbergs.

End of sources



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