

Section A (5 marks)

Text 1

Study the poster below and answer Questions 1 – 3.

1998
7600 TIGERS
LEFT IN THE WILD

2010
3200 TIGERS
LEFT IN THE WILD

2022
WILD TIGERS WILL BE
EXTINCT
UNLESS WE
ACT NOW

WWW.SAVETHETIGER.COM

Refer to the poster (Text 1) for Questions 1 – 3.

1. What is the purpose of this poster? Explain your answer fully.

.....
.....[1]

2. Refer to the text at the bottom right of the poster. Some words are presented in a larger font. With reference to these words, what are two things being highlighted here?

.....
.....[2]

3. The poster is direct and persuasive. Which of the following helps it achieve this effect?
(Tick two boxes only)

using statistics to support the claim

providing a website address

using bar graphs to demonstrate the declining numbers of tigers

using images of tiger

[2]

Section B (20 marks)

Text 2

The text below is an inspiring tale of an ordinary woman's quest to achieve the impossible – to conquer the South Pole. Read it carefully and answer Questions 4 – 11.

- 1 The winds were gusting, howling, and whipping the snow up into a frozen blizzard. I could see nothing out of the tent. We had woken up to a whiteout. On this, just the second day, Antarctica was about to show us her true colours.

- 2 Whiteout is just that. When we started, I could see no further than the orange sled in front of me, which often, terrifyingly, disappeared into the suffocating white fog. I had experienced the mist coming down during walks in Scotland before, but nothing like this. It was like walking on the inside of a Ping-Pong ball. I could simply not tell which way was up, which down. The sky was exactly the same shade of white as the ground; the horizon could not be seen. I found the process particularly difficult as I felt I was skiing in pitch darkness, except it was white instead of black.

- 3 It was a total shock. I was absolutely freezing and, within the first hour, I realized I was paying for my lack of training. I was the weakest and the slowest member of the group by far. The day was structured so that we would walk for one hour, stop for a five-minute break, eat some chocolate, and then continue. Each hour was timed and at the second the hour was up the leader would cross their skis in the air to indicate we were stopping. Even after I became more comfortable, later in the trip, this hourly signal was still what I longed to see.

- 4 It was too cold to stop for longer than five minutes before our bodies started to become hypothermic, and our hands to scream in pain, and each time I caught up that day, the break was always already over. I was too cold and in too much of a panic to eat; the simple task of opening my backpack and retrieving my chocolate was too difficult. I was working so hard and my body was lacking fuel; I became hypoglycaemic – my level of blood sugar fell – and tearful, which made me more and more helpless. I fell over several times. Twice I was unable to put my ski back on and had to be assisted.

- 5 When we set up camp, I declined into a serious cold. It was so windy that we could barely put up the tents. The others split into two teams of four, putting them up one at a time, but I was unable to do anything at all, so when the first inner tent was up Steve just shoved me in and lit the stove while everyone else put up the remainder of the camp. When I woke up, Steve was settled, and the stove was on for dinner. He had covered me up with my own sleeping bag. 'Bit of a nippy day, today,' he said, as if everything were quite normal. I nodded glumly. 'I know you are panicking,' he went on, 'but you'll be fine. You did well today, don't you worry.'

Extract from "To the Poles (Without a Beard) The Polar Adventure of a World Record-Breaking Woman"

Refer to the Text 2 for Questions 4 – 11.

4. How did the expedition group communicate through the suffocating white fog during the walk?

.....
.....[1]

5. What will happen if the group stopped for more than five minutes? Give evidence to support your answer.

.....
.....
.....[2]

6. What does the writer mean when she said ‘Antarctica was about to show us her true colours.’

.....
.....
.....[2]

7. The writer uses the simile “like walking on the inside of a Ping-Pong ball” (line 7) to describe her journey.

a) What does this simile suggest about the journey?

.....
.....[1]

b) Identify a sentence that conveys the same meaning as this simile.

.....
.....[1]

8. In the fourth paragraph, what evidence is there to show that the author was the weakest member of the group?

i.[1]

ii.[1]

iii.[1]

9. The structure of the text reflects the different stages the writer went through in her expedition to the South Pole. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word from the box that best describes the writer in each part of the text. There are some extra words in the box that you do not need to use.

reassured	startled	lost	surprised
terrified	exhausted	confused	sleepy

Paragraph 1

i. Paragraph 2

ii. Paragraph 3

iii. Paragraph 4

iv. Paragraph 5 [4]

10. Which of the following lines from Paragraph 5 support the idea that the writer’s expedition members are caring? (Tick two boxes only.)

‘...and the stove was on for dinner.’

‘The others split into two teams of four, putting them up one at a time,’

‘It was so windy that we could barely put up the tents.’

‘so when the first inner tent was up Steve just shoved me in and lit the stove...’ [2]

11.



Mary

It is clear that the writer thought the expedition was impossible.

I do not agree. In fact, I think the team has prepared well for the expedition.



Tom

Which student do you agree with? Give four pieces of evidence from the text to support your opinion.

I agree with because

.....

.....

.....

.....[4]

Section C (25 marks)

Text 3

The text below is about humans and sharks. Read it carefully and answer Questions 12 – 16.

- 1 Ironically, humans continue to move into the natural habitat of sharks. Yet we continue to blame sharks for destroying boats, surf boards, and are in shock when attacks on humans are reported.
- 2 In the early days of time, sharks were viewed very differently. The people of Hawaii are the biggest believers in them. To this culture, the shark is a powerful force that deserves to be protected. There are many stories and that involve sharks. In many of them, sharks are gods that protected the people of Hawaii. These stories continue to be passed down to the new generations. 5
- 3 Sharks dominate the waters where they live. They have been able to evolve and to survive for the past 420 million years. Yet their biggest threat is humans as we hunt them for their fins, pollute the ocean they live in, and take over their natural habitat. Most humans do not have any desire to learn the truth about sharks. They are content with the information they have even though it is not accurate. 10
- 4 It may surprise you to learn that humans and sharks are strikingly similar to each other. There are many anatomic similarities between sharks and humans. The components of the immune systems are very similar in make up. As in humans, sharks have two basic types of blood cell, white and red. White blood cells are primarily involved in the body's immunological defence against foreign invaders (such as disease-causing microbes), while red blood cells are the main carriers of respiratory gases. 15 20
- 5 Many humans have taken up the interest of observing and monitoring the behaviours of sharks. Yet there is still so much about them that we do not know. They are believed to have senses that are better enhanced than those of humans. Unlike humans, they are able to adapt to a variety of different situations in their environment. 25
- 6 The future for humans and sharks is one that remains uncertain. Hopefully there will come a time when enough information is out there that allows people to want to live in harmony with them. However, as long as humans continue to want to take over the waters for their own selfish needs, it is going to be virtually impossible to find that balance. 30
- 7 Those that fear sharks are developing a taste for human blood need to learn the facts. While we kill sharks for their fins, sharks are not out there looking to eat humans for a meal. It is a proven fact that sharks can go for months without food so that is not the case, unlike humans. They also are not programmed to kill humans out of aggression. 35
- 8 There are very few shark attacks, less than 100 each year. Less than 10% of the individuals die when the shark involved could easily kill them. Instead, they leave

the human alone after they realize it is not what they thought it was.

- 9 Sharks have no place else to go but in the water. On the other hand, humans have a choice of where they are going to be. Therefore, it really is not fair at all to blame sharks when humans end up in their territory. Learning more about the distribution of sharks, their feeding habits, and even about their migration can help one to understand fully these fascinating creatures in the waters around the world. 40
- 10 Hopefully, the humans that are willing to help protect sharks will be successful in their efforts. They strive to educate the public and to get them to recognize the importance of sharks. Sure, they can be large and they can be scary but they are not out there to consume humans. Very few species are ever a threat to humans in any form. It is very important to understand that sharks are a big part of the balance of the food chain in regards to the aquatic life out there. 45

Adapted from http://www.sharks-world.com/humans_and_sharks/

Refer to the Text 3 for Questions 12 – 16.

12. Read the text and match the paragraphs with the headings.

Write the correct letter (A – E). The first one has been done for you.

DO NOT USE ANY LETTER MORE THAN ONCE.

Paragraph 1	D
Paragraph 2-3
Paragraph 4-6
Paragraph 7-8
Paragraph 9-10

- A** Similarities of sharks and humans
- B** History and background of sharks
- C** Humans in shark habitat
- D** Humans blaming sharks for attacks
- E** Shark are not human eaters [4]

13. Explain the irony that the author is referring to in Paragraph 1.

.....
.....[2]

14. From the first 2 paragraphs, how were sharks viewed **differently**?

Today	
In the past	

[2]

15. Identify two reasons why humans are the biggest threat to the sharks from Paragraph 3.

.....
.....[2]

GCE N Levels Specimen Paper Answer Key 2014

Section A

1. To convince/ persuade the readers to take action to help protect the wild tigers [1]
(Do not accept: to persuade readers to do something/ take action)
2. “EXTINCT” shows that the wild tigers will disappear/ become extinct soon. [1]
“2022” and “ACT NOW” show the urgency of the situation [1]
3. using statistics to support the claim [1]
using bar graphs to demonstrate the declining numbers of tigers [1]

Section B

4. The leader of the group would cross their skis in the air to indicate that they were stopping. [1]
5. If the group stopped for longer than five minutes, they would suffer a lot of pain. [1]
“our bodies started to become hypothermic” and “our hands to scream in pain.” [1]
6. It means that Antarctica will reveal her true nature [1]
by unveiling the dangers of the cold Antarctic to the expedition members. [1]
7. a) It suggests that the journey is very disorientating [1]

b) “The sky was exactly the same shade of white as the ground; the horizon could not be seen.” [1]
8. i) ‘simple task of opening my backpack and retrieving my chocolate was too difficult’ [1]
ii) ‘I fell over several times’ [1]
iii) ‘unable to put my ski back on and had to be assisted’ [1]
9. confused [1]
surprised [1]
exhausted [1]
reassured [1]
10. ‘The others split into two teams of four, putting them up one at a time’ [1]
‘so when the first inner tent was up Steve just shoved me in and lit the stove...’ [1]
11. I agree with Mary because the white fog of the Antarctic is suffocating [1]
they were lost skiing in the ‘dark’ [1]

the temperature was too cold that their bodies started to become hypothermic [1]
and the writer became hypoglycaemic [1]

OR

I agree with Tom because the expedition was structured and paced well with sufficient breaks [1]
they had enough high-energy food [1]
they had excellent teamwork in the expedition group [1]
and well-stocked logistics with tents and stoves for the journey [1]

Section C

12. B [1]
A [1]
E [1]
C [1]

13. The irony is how absurd/ ridiculous it is for humans to blame sharks for the attacks on humans [1]
when they were the ones who continue to move into the sharks' natural habitats. [1]

14. Today: sharks are blamed for attacks on humans [1]
In the past: sharks were viewed as gods protecting humans [1]

15. humans hunt them for their fins **OR**
pollute the ocean they live in **OR**
take over their natural habitat [2]
(accept any 2 answers)

16.

Points	Own words
1. many anatomic similarities between sharks and humans	Humans and sharks are anatomically similar.
2. components of the immune systems are very similar in make up	similar parts in the immune system
3. As in humans, sharks have two basic types of blood cell, white and red	Both sharks and humans have two types of blood cells
4. believed to have senses that are better enhanced than those of humans	Sharks have superior senses compared to humans
5. Unlike humans, they are able to adapt to a variety of different situations in their environment	Sharks are better than humans in adapting to different environments
6. While we kill sharks for their fins, sharks are not out there looking to eat humans for a meal	Sharks do not kill humans for food, even though we harvest their fins.

7. proven fact that sharks can go for months without food so that is not the case, unlike humans.	They can survive for long periods without food, unlike humans.
8. Learning more about the distribution of sharks, their feeding habits, and even about their migration can help one to understand fully these fascinating creatures	Humans need to study more about how sharks are distributed, their feeding patterns, and their movement in the ocean.
9. strive to educate the public and to get them to recognize the importance of sharks.	The community can be educated to understand the significance of sharks.
10. very important to understand that sharks are a big part of the balance of the food chain in regards to the aquatic life out there	Critical to know that sharks play an important role in the balancing the oceanic food chain.

Student's Notes:

1. It is important that you cultivate certain good habits when answering comprehension questions. These include:
 - Always look at the indicated paragraph where the answer can be found.
 - Check the number of marks allocated to the question. This will tell you how many main points you need to find.
 - Highlight the key words in each question as you read. Answer what is required and do not include any extraneous information.
2. Do not copy blindly from the text. You must know exactly how much to write and where to find the answer. If you overwrite, you will not be awarded the marks as the examiner will assume you do not really know the answer and is hoping that it lies within the long quotation you have copied. This is called “excess denies”.
3. Factual questions require that you locate and write down the answer(s) found in the text.
4. Questions with “own words” require that you change either a word or phrase into your own words. Check the marks allocated which will indicate how much you need to change.
5. Sometimes you encounter questions that do not have an obvious answer. This is most likely an inferential question so you need to be more alert to pick out the right answer. The answer is usually more subtle and requires a deeper understanding of the passage and the use of logical thinking.
6. Vocabulary-type questions require you to figure out the meaning of words used in the passage. You have to use contextual clues (clues from the passage itself) to explain the meaning of the word or phrase.