

Mrs L Watkins  
August 2016



## **GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

### **UNIT 3**

**Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional.**

### **SPECIMEN PAPER**

**2 hours**

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

Resource Material.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions in Section A.

Select **both** questions in Section B.

Write your answers in this booklet.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A - about 10 minutes reading  
              about 50 minutes answering the questions

Section B1 - about 5 minutes planning

- about 25 minutes writing

B2 - about 5 minutes planning

- about 25 minutes writing

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

Section A (Reading): 40 marks

Section B (Writing): 40 marks

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.

**Mrs L Watkins**

August 2016

**Text A. The Guardian - environmental section.**

## **Stay off North Face of the Eiger, climbers warned - it's melting.**

It is one of the world's most difficult climbs - but may soon be impossible. Mountaineers are being warned that the North Face of the Eiger has become too dangerous to attempt because its ice fields are melting.

Guides working on the 13,000ft-high mountain in the Swiss Alps say that a combination of last summer's heatwave and poor snowfall since has caused a loosening of the permafrost that holds the rockface together.

The result is that the North Face, which has claimed more than 60 lives since the first successful ascent in 1938, is "falling apart", leaving climbers at severe risk of being injured or killed by falling rock and ice.

Hans Ulei, 38, a mountain guide from the nearby town of Interlaken, said: "We are telling people, 'Don't go on the North Face'. It is too dangerous.

"The mountain is falling down. These days I am often woken in the night by a sound like thunder. At 5am recently I heard that noise and when I looked from my window the North Face was half obscured by a grey cloud of powder from broken rocks."

A spokesman for the Swiss Alpine Club said that recent climatic developments have made the 1938 route up the North Face too dangerous. "My advice to anyone contemplating the Eiger is not to try the North Face.

"The conditions mean you will have a much higher chance of getting knocked out by rock or ice fall. There are many other routes up the mountain and the straightforward rock-climbing actually improves when the temperature goes up."

The North Face, or Nordwand, is 6,000ft high and has long been regarded as the "ultimate" challenge by those attracted to its cruel beauty: a vertical mile of shattered limestone rock and polished ice fields on a mountain known locally as the Eigerwand, or "Eiger wall".

Joe Simpson, the author of *Touching The Void*, a best-selling book about the adventures of two climbers, wrote about the Eiger in a previous book, *The Beckoning Silence*.

Mr Simpson said that "it has been the climb that has defined extreme mountaineering". "For over 60 years it has killed some of the finest climbers of their generation. And for those brave enough to attempt the face there is the added weight of its tragic history," he wrote.

The first successful assault on the Eiger was made in 1938 when Heinrich Harrer and Fritz Kasparek, Anderl Heckmair and Ludwig Vörg climbed into history.

Subsequent dramas on the mountain have included Sir Chris Bonington's first successful British attempt in 1962, during which he and his climbing partner, Don Whillans, rescued another British climber, Brian Nally, after his partner, Barry Brewster, was killed by falling rocks.

James Edwards, 28, a British teacher who attempted the climb at Easter, said that the conditions had made it impossible even to consider an ascent. "I spoke to two very experienced guys who had already made an attempt and they had had to turn back after 500 metres because there were rocks and stuff coming down on them."

Marc Ziegler, one of the mountain rescue team for the North Face, said: "Things are certainly changing. The first ice field doesn't exist any more and the second and third are getting much smaller."

Dr Rolf Burki, a lecturer at Zurich University who produced a recent study for the United Nation's Environment Programme on the changes occurring in the Alps, said that warmer weather was to blame for the difficulties.

Temperatures on the mountain have increased by one degree Celsius since 1850, but were now rising more rapidly, with a projected warming of 1.5 to 5.9 degrees during the next century. "In that area of the Alps there is a **great problem because** of retreating glaciers and melting permafrost. A lot of the climbing routes **that have been possible in the past will not be** possible in the future because of rockfall," he said.

Mrs L Watkins

August 2016

**Text B. Extract from the book 'Touching the Void'.**

*Touching the Void is a true account of a horrific mountaineering accident experienced by Joe Simpson and Simon Yates. While descending from a difficult and very remote mountain peak in South America, Joe fell and smashed his leg. Simon had to lower him down in stages to get him off the mountain. However, half way down Joe is lowered accidentally over a part of the mountain he cannot climb back from. Simon is left holding Joe's weight, without knowing what has happened. He has to make the decision to cut the rope.*

*This extract is from Joe's point of view, as he waits, hanging and helpless, for whatever will happen next.*

I lolled on the rope, scarcely able to hold my head up. An awful weariness washed through me, and with it a fervent hope that this endless hanging would soon be over. There was no need for the torture. I wanted with all my heart for it to finish.

The rope jolted down a few inches. How long will you be, Simon? I thought. How long before you join me? It would be soon. I could feel the rope tremble again; wire-tight, it told me the truth as well as any phone call. So! It ends here. Pity! I hope somebody finds us, and knows we climbed the West Face. I don't want to disappear without trace. They'd never know we did it.

The wind swung me in a gentle circle. I looked at the crevasse beneath me, waiting for me. It was big. Twenty feet wide at least. I guessed that I was hanging fifty feet above it. It stretched along the base of the ice cliff. Below me it was covered with a roof of snow, but to the right it opened out and a dark space yawned there. Bottomless, I thought idly. No. They're never bottomless. I wonder how deep I will go? To the bottom...to the water at the bottom? God! I hope not.

Another jerk. Above me the rope sawed through the cliff edge, dislodging chunks of crusty ice. I stared at it stretching into the darkness above. Cold had long since won its battle. There was no feeling in my arms and legs. Everything slowed and softened. Thoughts became idle questions, never answered. I accepted that I was to die. There was no alternative. It caused me no dreadful fear. I was numb with cold and felt no pain; so senselessly cold that I craved sleep and cared nothing for the consequences. It would be a dreamless sleep. Reality had become a nightmare, and sleep beckoned insistently; a black hole calling me, pain-free, lost in time, like death.

My torch beam died. The cold had killed the batteries. I saw stars in the dark gap above me. Stars, or lights in my head. The storm was over. The stars were good to see. I was glad to see them again. Old friends come back. They seemed far away; further than I'd ever seen them before. And bright: you'd think them gemstones hanging there, floating in the air above. Some moved, little winking moves, on and off, on and off, floating the brightest sparks of light down to me.

Then, what I had waited for pounced on me. The stars went out, and I fell. Like something come alive, the rope lashed violently against my face and I fell silently, endlessly into nothingness, as if dreaming of falling. I fell fast, faster than thought, and my stomach protested at the swooping speed of it. I swept down, and from far above I saw myself falling and felt nothing. No thoughts, and all fears gone away. So this is it!

A whoomping impact on my back broke the dream, and the snow engulfed me. I felt cold wetness on my cheeks. I wasn't stopping, and for an instant blinding moment I was frightened. Now, the crevasse! Ahhh...NO!!

**Text C. The Day website.**

THURSDAY 20 OCTOBER 2011

**THE DAY**  
EXPLAINING MATTERS

WWW.THEDAY.CO.UK

## Dead climber's partner reveals guilt and sorrow

**E**rhard Loretan was one of the most celebrated mountaineers of his generation. Known for taking the most challenging routes without oxygen and at a formidable pace, he was only the third person in history to climb all 14 Himalayan peaks over 8,000 metres.

It was a puzzling tragedy, then, when he died on a relatively modest Swiss peak. Loretan was celebrating his 52nd birthday on a climb with Xenia Minder, his partner and an inexperienced mountaineer, when she lost her footing and dragged him 200ft to his death.

Though Loretan was killed instantly, Minder, incredibly, survived her fall. This week, she has spoken candidly about her feelings of responsibility for Loretan's death.

Freezing cold, littered with sharp drops and deadly crevasses, mountains can be among the most hostile environments on earth. When things go wrong – and they often do – climbers can find their survival hanging, almost literally, by a thread.

In life or death situations, they have to make instant decisions, which sometimes have tragic consequences.

Mountaineer Simon Yates, for example, famously cut the climbing rope connecting him to his climbing partner Joe Simpson, leaving his friend for dead. The disastrous 1996 Everest Climb documented in *Into Thin Air* sees guide Stuart Hutchison discovering his teammates unconscious, frozen, and near death – but miraculously still breathing. He opts to leave them, in order to find others with a better chance of survival.

Incredibly, those who have survived such abandonment (like Joe Simpson, who somehow managed to crawl back to camp on a smashed leg) do not condemn those who left them. With a sport so risky as mountaineering, it is necessary to accept that you may have to be sacrificed, or that others may be unable to save you.

As a professional climber, Erhard Loretan routinely placed his life at the mercy of other people's snap decisions, and

eventually paid the ultimate price for his sport. And though Minder has never been held culpable for her lover's death, the irreversible consequences of her fatal misstep will be impossible to forget.

### TOUCHING THE VOID

Many of us find it unthinkable that people put their own lives, and those of others, at the mercy of a split-second decision or an accidental stumble. Human beings, after all, should be programmed to cherish life. Taking such risks simply in order to climb a mountain seems absurd – if not insane.

For mountaineers, however, the only way to feel alive is to push experience to the limits, risk death, and know our vulnerability in the face of nature and chance. Responsibility for the lives of others – and dependence on them for your own safety – is central to what climbing is. It is exactly that sense of danger that makes it so profound.

### Text D. Adventure travel magazine.

#### TRAGEDIES ON THE MOUNTAIN: THE EIGER 1936

In July 1936, four experienced German and Austrian climbers set out to tackle 'the last problem of the Western Alps': the north face of the Eiger. Toni Kurz, Andreas Hinterstoisser, Willy Angerer and Edi Rainer were volunteers for Hitler's mountain strike force, which set out to produce propaganda for the Nazis and the forthcoming Berlin Olympic Games by successful alpine ascents.

The ascent started off successfully, and the team looked set for the summit, until Angerer sustained a head injury from falling rocks. The group were forced to turn back and down-climb as he couldn't continue.

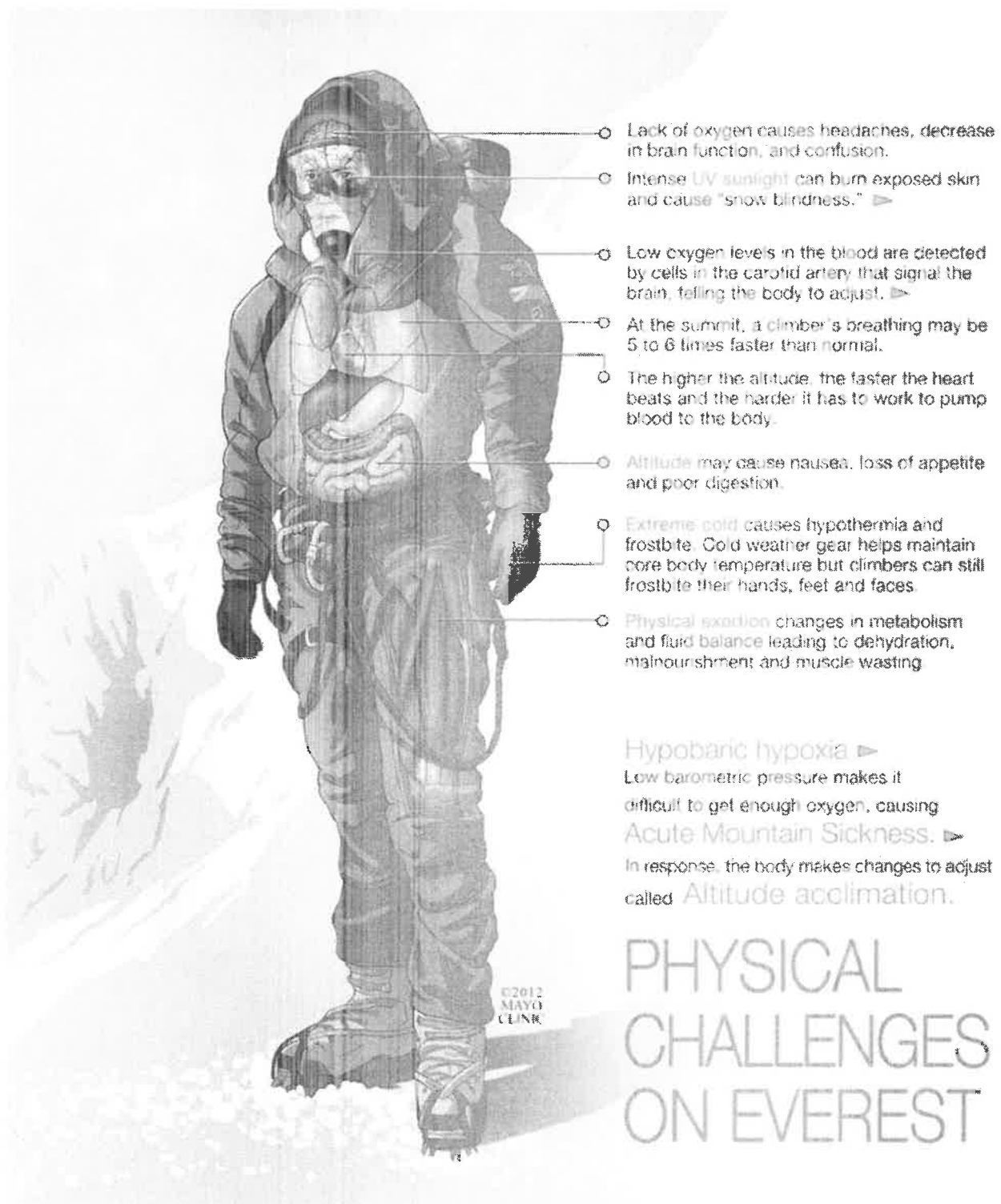
When the team reached the Hinterstoisser traverse on the down-climb (they didn't know it was called that, as it was named after Andreas Hinterstoisser's impressive conquering of it on the way up) it was uncrossable and they were forced to abseil further down the north face. On 21 July an avalanche hit the group, sending Hinterstoisser falling to his death and slamming Angerer into the wall, killing him on impact. Rainer, who had been belaying the two, was pulled into the wall by the weight on the ropes and died minutes later of asphyxiation. Kurz remained uninjured. A rescue team attempted to reach him from the railway tunnel through the mountain but couldn't get to him so the German was left hanging throughout the night in freezing blizzard conditions.

The next morning the rescue team came back and threw Kurz a rope to tie to his own. In an ordeal that took five hours, Kurz unpicked his rope with a frozen hand (remember these were before the days of climbing ropes as we know them today) and tied the ends together to make one long rope.

Mrs L Watkins  
August 2016

He then knotted the rescue team's rope onto his and began the abseil to safety. All was going well until he reached the knot from the rescue team's added rope. Unable to manipulate his abseil gear over the knot, he looked at the rescuers and said, "Ich kann nicht mehr", meaning 'I cannot go on anymore' and soon passed away from exposure.

### Text E. Infographic of effects on the body when climbing.



**Section A (Reading) 40 marks.**

In the separate Resource Material there are five texts on the theme of mountaineering labelled Text A-E. Read each text carefully and answer all the questions below that relate to each of the texts. Additional answer pages are available at the back of this paper should you require them.

**Text A.**

- 1) How many people have died since the Eiger was first successfully climbed? [1]

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- 2) When was the first successful British ascent of the Eiger? [1]

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- 3) Why is climbing the Eiger seen as the 'ultimate' challenge? [1]

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**Text B.**

- 4) What is meant by the phrase 'a fervent hope' [1]

- a) Desperate
- b) Passionate
- c) Delirious
- d) Tired

- 5) How does Joe Simpson convey his thoughts and feelings in this extract? [10]

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**Text D.**

9) What was the purpose of the mountain strike force? [1]

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10) Sequence the events of the tragic climb in the correct order. Number them 1- 9 [9]

- Avalanche hits \_\_\_\_\_
- Kurtz unhurt is left hanging overnight. \_\_\_\_\_
- Team ascent \_\_\_\_\_
- Hinterstoisser falls to this death \_\_\_\_\_
- Team decide to climb down \_\_\_\_\_
- Angerer is hit on the head by falling rock \_\_\_\_\_
- Due to a knot in his abseil gear Kurz dies of exposure \_\_\_\_\_
- Rainer pulled by their fall is choked to death \_\_\_\_\_
- Angerer hit into wall and dies \_\_\_\_\_

11) What is the purpose of the text? [1]

- a) Public use
- b) Personal use
- c) Educational use
- d) Occupational use

**Text E.**

12) What are the possible reactions to a change in altitude? [3]

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13) Why might climbers still get frostbite in their hands, feet and faces despite wearing cold weather gear?

[1]

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14) What is meant by the phrase 'altitude acclimation'? [1]

- a) Climbers feeling sick the higher they climb
- b) A lack of oxygen to the brain
- c) Changes the body makes to get used to height
- d) The body's muscles wasting





### Text A.

- 1) How many people have died since the Eiger was first successfully climbed? [1]

Award **one** mark for 60 people

- 2) When was the first successful British ascent of the Eiger? [1]

Award **one** mark for 1962

- 3) Why is climbing the Eiger seen as the 'ultimate' challenge? [1]

Award **one** mark for any of the following:

- It is dangerous/ cruel mountain/ extreme/ beautiful yet dangerous/

### Text B.

- 4) What is meant by the phrase 'a fervent hope' [1]

Award **one** mark for passionate

- 5) How does Joe Simpson convey his thoughts and feelings in this extract? [10]

Give 0 marks for responses where there is nothing worthy of credit

Give 1-2 marks to those who identify and begin to comment on some examples of Joe's thoughts or feelings.

Give 3-4 marks to those who identify and give straightforward comments on some examples of Joe's thoughts or feelings. These responses will simply identify some linguistic terminology/techniques.

Give 5-6 marks to those who explain how a number of different examples present Joe's thoughts or feelings, and begin to show some understanding of how language and techniques are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Linguistic terminology is used accurately to support comments effectively.

Give 7-8 marks to those who make accurate comments about how a range of different examples illustrate Joe's thoughts and feelings, and begin to analyse how language and techniques are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Linguistic terminology is used accurately to support comments effectively.

Give 9-10 marks to those who make accurate and perceptive comments about how a wide range of different examples portray Joe's thoughts and feelings, and provide detailed analysis of how language and techniques are used to achieve effects and influence the reader. Subtleties of the writer's techniques are explored in relation to how the reader is influenced. Well considered, accurate use of linguistic terminology supports comments effectively.

**Some points candidates might discuss:**

- Use of the word 'lulled' and 'scarcely' shows tired
- He says 'awful weariness' and it 'washed' through him
- He is desperate for it to be over 'endless hanging'
- He calls it 'torture'
- He says 'with all my heart'
- The use of the word 'jolted' shows surprise.
- Use of the questions
- Short sentence
- The rope 'tremble'
- Use of exclamations – So! Pity!
- He doesn't want to be left without people knowing they had climbed.
- Wanted his success recognised.
- Sees the crevasse as 'waiting for me'
- A dark space 'yawned'
- Questions how big his fall will be and what will be at the bottom.
- Use of questions and exclamations
- God! I hope not – water at the bottom.
- The rope 'sawed' through the cliff.
- The use of 'chunks of crusty' ice
- The idea of cold winning a 'battle' with him.
- Everything 'slowed and softened'
- He accepts he will die
- He isn't afraid
- He is numb
- He craves sleep – which would be dangerous for him
- Reality was a 'nightmare'
- It was a 'black hole'
- He calls the stars 'old friends' he calls them 'gemstones' and they flash 'on and off'
- Quick move in narrative 'pounced' and 'I fell'
- Rope 'lashed violently'
- Fell 'endlessly into nothingness'
- His stomach 'protested'
- The 'swooping speed'.
- So this is it!
- Use of 'whooping impact'
- The fact it is endless the crevasse 'Ahhh... No!'

**Text C.**

6) In your own words explain why non-climbers find the risks of climbing 'absurd' [2]

**Award up to two marks for any of the following:**

- They put their lives in danger
- They put the lives of others in danger
- They are at the mercy of split second decisions
- Life should be cherished
- Risks taken just to climb a mountain are silly.

7) What is it that makes a mountaineer 'feel alive' according to the article? [3]

**Award up to three marks for any of the following:**

- They push the experience to the limit

Mrs L Watkins  
August 2016

- The risk of danger
- To see their own vulnerability in the face of nature/ or chance
- The responsibility of risking their own lives/ others

8) Synthesise what text A and text C say about the dangers of mountaineering. [5]

Give 0 marks to those who write nothing worthy of credit.

Give 1 marks or those who identify basic information about the dangers from one or more texts.

Give 2 marks to those who identify and give straightforward description of the dangers. These answers will begin to collate information from different sources although the response may be uneven.

Give 3 marks to those who identify some range of information on the dangers. There may be some reliance on identifying information but these answers will begin to explain the content of each text.

Give 4 marks to those who include a number of detailed comments about the dangers and how it makes people behave. These answers will be carefully collated with a wider range of valid supporting comments.

Give 5 marks to those who make a wide range of perceptive and astute comments about the dangers and how it makes people behave. These answers will combine overview and detail and will collate the material effectively. Responses will have a sustained understanding of the texts and purposeful explanations.

Some points to explore:

Text A	Text C
Ice fields are melting making environment hostile Loosening permafrost makes floor unstable 60 people have died on the Eiger Huge risk of injury Risk of being killed by falling rock Terrible weather conditions	Risk of death Mention of people who have died Accidents easily cause death Poor weather conditions Deadly crevasses Hostile environment Have to look after yourself Sharp drops

### Text D.

9) What was the purpose of the mountain strike force? [1]

Award **one** mark for the answer – it was set out to produce propoganda for the Nazis and the Berlin Olympic games by successful alpine ascents.

10) Sequence the events of the tragic climb in the correct order. Number them 1- 9 [9]

Award **one mark for each** correct answer:

- Avalanche hits \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Kurtz unhurt is left hanging overnight. \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Team ascent \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs L Watkins  
August 2016

- Hinterstoisser falls to this death \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Team decide to climb down \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Angerer is hit on the head by falling rock \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Due to a knot in his abseil gear Kurz dies of exposure \_\_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Rainer pulled by their fall is choked to death \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Angerer hit into wall and dies \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_

11) What is the purpose of the text? [1]

Award **one** mark for public use

**Text E.**

12) What are the possible reactions to a change in altitude? [3]

Award **up to three marks** for any of the following:

- Headaches
- Confusion
- Decrease in brain function
- Breathing faster
- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Poor digestion

13) Why might climbers still get frostbite in their hands, feet and faces despite wearing cold weather gear? [1]

Award **one** mark for the answer similar to:

- These are extremities and takes longer for blood to pump to them.
- Harder for the blood to get to ends of body.
- Face is still quite exposed.

14) What is meant by the phrase 'altitude acclimation'? [1]

Award **one** mark for - Changes the body makes to get used to height



**B1 and B2 Assessment Criteria**

Band	Communicating and organising	Band	Writing accurately (language, grammar, punctuation and spelling)
5 (9-10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mature and perceptive writing</li> <li>Sustained and effective writing with techniques that fully engage the reader's interest</li> <li>Appropriate register is confidently adapted to purpose/audience</li> <li>Ideas are convincingly developed with detail, originality and creativity</li> <li>Secure and coherent structure; there is sophistication in the shape and structure of the writing</li> </ul>	5 (9-10 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a wide range of ambitious and appropriate vocabulary confidently to create effect or convey precise meaning</li> <li>Appropriate and effective variation of sentence structures</li> <li>Virtually all sentence construction is controlled and accurate</li> <li>A range of punctuation is used confidently and accurately</li> <li>Virtually all spelling, including that of complex irregular words, is correct</li> <li>Control of tense and agreement is totally secure</li> <li>Very secure command of grammar</li> </ul>
4 (7-8 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clearly controlled and well-judged writing</li> <li>Shows secure understanding of the reader's needs and how to hold interest with techniques used</li> <li>Register is appropriately and consistently adapted to purpose/audience</li> <li>Develops ideas with convincing detail and some originality and imagination</li> <li>Writing is purposefully structured and clearly organised to give sequence and fluency</li> </ul>	4 (7-8 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use wide range of vocabulary with precision</li> <li>Secure command of grammar</li> <li>Sentence structure is varied to achieve effects</li> <li>Control of sentence construction is secure</li> <li>A range of punctuation is used accurately</li> <li>Spelling, including that of irregular words, is secure</li> <li>Control of tense and agreement is secure</li> </ul>
3 (5-6 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Writing is mostly coherent and interesting</li> <li>Clear awareness of the reader and some techniques used to meet their needs</li> <li>Register is mostly appropriately adapted to purpose/audience</li> <li>Ideas show development and there are some interesting effects in the writing</li> <li>The writing is organised to give sequence and structure</li> </ul>	3 (5-6 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use a good range of vocabulary with some precision</li> <li>Mostly consistent command of grammar</li> <li>Sentence structures are varied</li> <li>Control of sentence construction is mostly secure</li> <li>A range of punctuation is used, mostly accurately</li> <li>Most spelling, including that of irregular words, is correct</li> <li>Control of tense and agreement is mostly secure</li> </ul>
2 (3-4 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some coherent writing</li> <li>Some awareness how to create effect to interest</li> <li>A clear attempt to adapt register to</li> <li>Develops some ideas with an occasional</li> <li>There is some organisation, some sequencing of ideas</li> </ul>	2 (3-4 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use some range of vocabulary</li> <li>Command of grammar is inconsistent</li> <li>There is some variety of sentence structure</li> <li>There is some control of sentence construction</li> <li>Some control of a range of punctuation</li> <li>Spelling is usually accurate</li> <li>Control of tense and agreement is generally secure</li> </ul>
1 (1-2 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic coherence in the writing</li> <li>Limited awareness of the reader</li> <li>Some attempt to adapt register to</li> <li>Some relevant content but uneven</li> <li>Basic organisation; simple sequencing of ideas</li> </ul>	1 (1-2 marks)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited range of vocabulary</li> <li>Limited range of sentence structures</li> <li>Control of sentence construction is limited</li> <li>There is some attempt to use to use punctuation</li> <li>Some spelling is accurate</li> <li>Control of tense and agreement is limited</li> <li>Limited command of grammar</li> </ul>
0 marks	Nothing worthy of credit		

Mrs L Watkins  
August 2016