**De Aston**

**English Department**



**Year 12 GCSE: Language Paper 1/2**

**Challenge Tasks**

**Name:**

**Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut**

ALL THIS HAPPENED, more or less. The war parts, anyway, are pretty much true. One guy I knew really was shot for taking a teapot that wasn't his. Another guy I knew really did threaten to have his personal enemies killed by hired gunmen after the war. And so on. I've changed all their names.

I really did go back to Dresden with Guggenheim money (God love it) in 1967. It looked a lot like Dayton, Ohio, more open spaces than Dayton has. There must be tons of human bone meal in the ground.

I went back there with an old war buddy, Bernard V. O'Hare, and we made friends with a cab driver, who took us to the slaughterhouse where we had been locked up at night as prisoners of war. His name was Gerhard Muller. He told us that he was a prisoner of the Americans for a while. We asked him how it was to live under Communism, and he said that it was terrible at first, because everybody had to work so hard, and because there wasn't much shelter or food or clothing. But things were much better now. He had a pleasant little apartment, and his daughter was getting an excellent education. His mother was incinerated in the Dresden fire-storm. So it goes.

**Week Four-Six:**

Complete at least one question a week (as well as question 1) of the Paper 2 mock below.

**Week One:**

How does the writer use language here to describe violence? You could include the writer’s choice of:

• words and phrases

• language features and techniques

* sentence forms.

8 marks

**Week Three:**

Write the opening of a story with the line beginning: ‘Nothing was the same again after that day…’

Remember to use descriptive language devices, paragraphs and SPAG.

**Week Two:**

Q3 - This text is from the beginning of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader? You could write about:

• what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning

• how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops

* any other structural features that interest you. **8** **marks**

**Made up Paper 2: Mountain Climbers**

**Source A**

Let’s talk about the climb up Everest, one step at a time

*Interview with Sir Edmund Hilary*

*Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay were the first climbers to reach the summit of Mount Everest in 1953.*

**Sir Edmund Hillary:** I never climbed up anything one step at a time. You read so much about how, at extreme altitudes, you take one step and then you stop and pant and puff for a while, and then take one more step. I don’t ever remember doing that. You’re much slower in higher altitudes because of the lack of oxygen, but I used to keep moving pretty steadily most of the time and I didn’t have to stop too often for panting and puffing. I think I was pretty well adapted and acclimatized to altitude and I was very fit in those days, so I could keep moving very freely.

**Can you tell us about any specific challenges along the way as you were ascending?**

**Sir Edmund Hillary:** Well there were lots of challenges. Even the route we were climbing Mt. Everest was one of the two easiest routes on the mountain as we know now. Of course, nobody had climbed it then. But even so, there are demanding parts of it.

At the bottom of the mountain, there’s the ice fall, where it’s a great tumbled ruin of ice that’s all pouring down and filled with crevasses and ice walls. It’s under slow but constant movement. It’s a dangerous place because things are always tumbling down. So you have to establish a route up through that which you can get with reasonable safety. But over the years, literally dozens of people have died in the crevasses. They’ve been engulfed by ice walls falling down and things of that nature.

I had one experience on the ice fall with Tenzing. We were actually descending after

having been further up the mountain and it was getting close towards dark so we wanted to get through the ice fall before darkness fell. We were roped together, but I was rushing down ahead in the lead. About half-way down there was a narrow crevasse, I guess it was about four feet wide, but just a bit too wide to step across. On the lower lip was a great chunk of ice stuck against the ice wall, and we’d used that as sort of a stepping stone to get over the gap. I came rushing down the hill without thinking too carefully, I just leapt in the air and landed on the chunk of ice, whereupon the chunk of ice broke off and dropped into the crevasse with me on top of it. It was interesting how everything seemed to start going slowly, even though I was free-falling into the crevasse.

**Source B**

**A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains -** Isabella Bird

*With her small support team, Victorian explorer, Isabella Bird, prepares to make the hazardous ascent of one of the highest peaks in America’s Rocky Mountains…….*

As we crept from the lodge round a horn of rock, I beheld what made me perfectly sick and dizzy to look at – the terminal Peak itself – a smooth, cracked face or wall of pink granite, as nearly perpendicular as anything could well be up which it was possible to climb, well deserving the name of the ‘American Matterhorn’.

*Scaling,* not climbing, is the correct term for this last ascent. It took one hour to accomplish 500 feet, pausing for breath every minute or two. The only foothold was in narrow cracks or on minute projections on the granite. To get a toe in these cracks, or here and there on a scarcely obvious projection, while crawling on hands and knees, all the while tortured with thirst and gasping for breath, this was the climb; but at last the Peak was won. A grand, well-defined mountain-top it is, a nearly level acre of boulders, with precipitous sides all round, the one we came up being the only accessible one.

It was not possible to remain long. One of the young men was seriously alarmed by bleeding from the lungs, and the intense dryness of the day and the rarefaction of the air, at a height of nearly 15,000 feet, made respiration very painful. There is always water on the Peak, but it was frozen as hard as rock, and the sucking of ice and snow increases thirst. We all suffered severely from the want of water, and gasping for breath made our mouths and tongues so dry that articulation was difficult, and speech of all unnatural.

Repassing the Ledge and Lift, we accomplished the descent through 1500 feet of ice and snow, with many falls and bruises, but no worse mishap, and there separated, the young men taking the steepest but most direct way to the Notch, with the intention of getting ready for the march home, and ‘Jim’ and I taking what he thought the safer route for me – a descent over boulders for 2000 feet, and then a tremendous ascent to the ‘Notch’. I had various falls, and once hung by my frock, which caught on a rock, and ‘Jim’ severed it with his hunting-knife, upon which I fell into a crevice full of soft snow. We were driven lower down the mountains than he had intended by impassable tracts of ice, and the ascent was tremendous. For the last 200 feet the boulders were of enormous size, and the steepness fearful. Sometimes I drew myself up on hands and knees, sometimes crawled; sometimes ‘Jim’ pulled me up by my arms or a lariat, and sometimes I stood on his shoulders, or he made steps for me of his feet and hands, but at six we stood on the Notch in the splendour of the sinking sun, all colour deepening, all peaks glorifying, all shadows purpling, all peril past.

Answer **all** questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

1. Read **source A**. Choose **four** statements below which are TRUE. **[4 marks]**
	1. In higher altitudes, you are much slower because of the lack of oxygen.
	2. Sir Edmund Hillary chose the most difficult route up the mountain.
	3. One of the major dangers on the climb was the ice falls.
	4. On one of their climb descents, Hillary was rushing to catch up with Tenzing who was leading.
	5. Hillary believes it was due to Tenzing’s actions that the fall into the crevice did not end in death.
	6. During his fall Hillary stopped thinking.
	7. Hillary was afraid throughout his adventure.
	8. Sir Edmund Hillary had to stop often to puff and pant.
2. You need to refer to **source A** and **source B** for this question: The authors both experienced exciting times climbing their mountains. Use details from **both** sources to write a summary of the differences. **[8 marks]**
3. You now need to refer **only** to **source B**, Isabella Bird’s account of her time in the Rocky Mountains. How does she use language to show you, the reader, the dangers encountered? **[12 marks]**
4. For this question, you need to refer to the **whole of source A** together with the **whole of source B**.

Compare how the writers have conveyed their different experiences and how they dealt with fearful circumstances.

In your answer, you could:

• compare their different views and experiences

• compare the methods they use to convey those views and experiences

• support your ideas with quotations from both texts. **[16 marks]**

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