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# INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 – Source-based Reading and Directed Writing

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Wednesday 13 May 2020

07:00 GMT

Time allowed: 2 hours

The six sources that follow are:

- **Source A:** Parkrun
- **Source B:** Minecraft
- **Source C:** Do Teenagers Read Seriously Anymore?
- **Source D:** Images – Music
- **Source E:** Music Lessons
- **Source F:** The Kitemaker

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Source A:

## Parkrun



Parkrun, which began in the UK in 2004, is a free, weekly 5km run organised by volunteers. Now it has gone international and currently has over 5 million runners in 23 countries around the world.

One of those is Presint 18 parkrun in Malaysia, one of three parkrun events that currently take place across Malaysia. Found in the city of Putrajaya, south of Kuala Lumpur, P18 parkrun joined the family in November 2018.

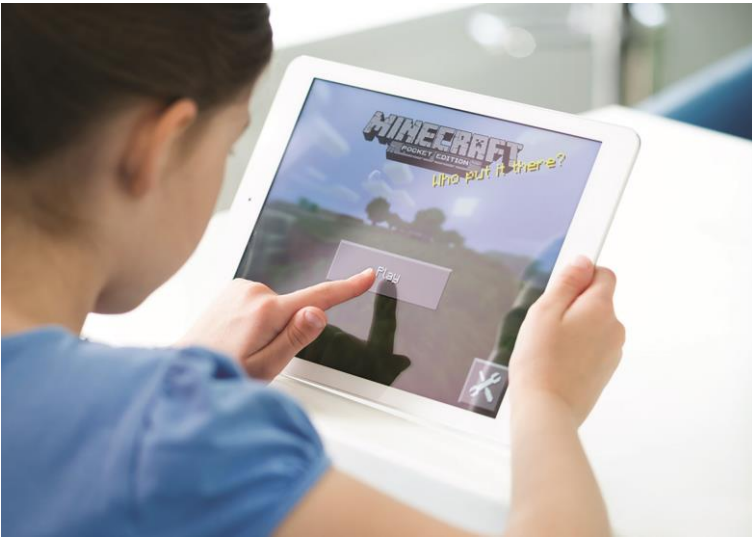
This ultra-speedy course is a flat, out-and-backer along Putrajaya Lake, with only three turns on the whole route, making it a dream for PB-hunters (those looking for their fastest times!).

Unlike events in the UK, Presint 18 parkrun starts at 7:30 am each week, and the parkrun start is located just a 30 – 40 minute drive from Kuala Lumpur International Airport, making it convenient for those who are in the city, or passing through, and popular with tourists.

The lake that you walk, jog and run along during your parkrun was designed to act as a natural cooling system for the city. Let's just say you'll need it ... temperatures in Putrajaya range between 24°C – 34°C even in winter!

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**Source B:****Minecraft**

Minecraft's creators revealed this week that the blocky freeform building game has 33 million users.

Playing the game involves surviving by using blocks to build a shelter and turning raw materials into items to help kill the game's many monsters. From such an uncomplicated setting has grown a gaming phenomenon. The community of people involved with the game numbers tens of millions. Many of those fans are children.

My two nine-year-olds are devoted members of that community. They

spend a lot of time playing Minecraft, talking about playing Minecraft and watching videos of other people playing Minecraft.

My son Toby says he watches Minecraft videos for the same reason football players watch matches on TV. He sees what the best can do and that gives him ideas about what to try in the game. Christy Wyatt, head of Good Technology and mum to another Minecraft fan, says parents might well be surprised at what their children have built in the game. "My initial reaction was that it was just another video game," she says. "Now I think of it as digital Lego and they are using it to build amazing things."

Her child's fondness for the game has had other benefits too, ones that go beyond the computer. "We did have some challenges with the kids at school," she says "but Minecraft is the thing that brought them together."

Teacher Joel Levin has seen the positive effect Minecraft can have on relationships among schoolchildren – especially on those who would otherwise be dismissed for being too geeky. "Suddenly those computer skills become transferable into social capital," he says. He also hopes Minecraft can teach parents a thing or two. And that's perhaps the best thing about the game – the shared times and stories we've had playing it together.

Source C:

## Do Teenagers Read Seriously Anymore?

*In this article, the writer shares his views on why he thinks teenagers are no longer reading books.*

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It's very likely that teenagers, attached to screens of one sort or another, read more words than they ever have in the past. But they often read scraps, excerpts, articles, parts of articles, messages, pieces of information from everywhere and from nowhere. It's likely that they are reading fewer books. Yes, millions of kids have read plenty of novels, especially those from popular series, turned into films, such as 'Harry Potter'. Yet what happens as they move toward adolescence? When they become twelve or thirteen, kids often stop reading seriously. Much of their social life is now conducted on smartphones, where teenagers don't have to confront one another.

If kids are avoiding eye contact, they are avoiding books even more. Work by the Pew Research Center and other organisations have confirmed the opinions of teachers and parents. Few older teenagers are reading many books. A recent summary of studies cited by Common Sense Media indicates that teenagers are less likely to read for pleasure at seventeen than at thirteen. My own observation, after spending a lot of time talking to teenagers in recent years: reading anything serious has become a chore – it's not something that runs through the rest of their lives. In summary, reading has lost its privileged status; few kids are ashamed that they're not doing it much. The idea that you should always have a book *going*, which all real readers share, doesn't flourish in many kids. Often, they look at you blankly when you ask them what book they are reading on their own.

Of course, these kids are very busy. School, homework, sports, jobs, clothes, parents, brothers, sisters, friendships, hanging out, music, and, most of all, screens (TV, Internet, games, texting) – compared with all of that, reading a book is a weak claim on their time.

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Source D:

## Images – Music



Source E:

## Music Lessons

Why play the saxophone? Why even get started? It seems to have more pipework and plumbing than the average house. An octopus with five fingers on each tentacle might not handle all the keys and stops. Then, on top of this, you have to blow in a special way so that the little stick of wood, the reed, vibrates and you make a lovely sound. Not, as I did, the squawk of an angry duck!

I've loved listening to the saxophone; it fits so well into most musical groups. It holds its place amongst the violins and trumpets in a modern orchestra, it can be the standout instrument in a jazz band and many a poor rock song has been lifted by a great sax solo.



So, I reckoned in three months I would be ready for my first headline concert. My first *Learn to Play* book had some friendly drawings and tunes I could 'master in five minutes'. I mean how easy is it to play the nursery rhyme *Three Blind Mice*? Three months on and I had barely got past the second line, 'see how they run', let alone the tricky bit in the middle that gets faster. My visions of running onto the stage to blast out *Three Blind Mice* to ten thousand fans was fast-fading.

The pleasure of reading and playing music is one you have to fight for, there are few short cuts and if you want to do it yourself – rather than press a button that says 'Play' – then it's a long and sometimes painful road.

Three years on, five thousand paid-for lessons, ten thousand reeds and fifteen thousand hours of practice – ok, I might be exaggerating a bit – I can now play the first ten pages of *The Beatles Songbook* and I've never felt happier. What an achievement! Tickets for my first concert are imminent.

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**Source F:**

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