



**GCSE**

150/06

**ENGLISH**

**HIGHER TIER**

**PAPER 2**

P.M. THURSDAY, 5 June 2008

2 Hours

**ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

A 12 page answer book.

Resource Material for use with Section A.

**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Answer **all** questions in Sections A and B.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

You are advised to spend your time as follows:

Section A – about 50 minutes

Section B

Q. B1 – about 35 minutes

Q. B2 – about 35 minutes

**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.

## SECTION A: 40 marks

Answer **all** the following questions.

The **Resource Material for use with Section A** is a newspaper article by Edward Enfield entitled “Kevin the Teenager”.

The text by Holly Graham on the opposite page (“Who’s the Real Kevin?”) appeared on the Internet.

**Look at the article “Kevin the Teenager” in the Resource Material.**

- A1.** What impressions does Edward Enfield give of his son, Harry? [10]
- A2.** What are Edward Enfield’s thoughts and feelings about teenagers? [10]

**Look at “Who’s the real Kevin?” by Holly Graham on the opposite page.**

- A3.** Holly Graham tries to suggest that parents are as bad as teenagers. How does she do this?

Think about:

- what she says;
- how she says it. [10]

**To answer the next question you will need to consider both texts.**

- A4.** Edward Enfield and Holly Graham both write about the relationships between parents and teenagers. Compare and contrast the texts.

Organise your answer using the following headings:

- the way teenagers are presented;
- the way parents are presented. [10]

## WHO'S THE REAL KEVIN?

Harry Enfield's Kevin is the 'typical' teenager: grumpy, moody, awkward and sulky. But in our house he is definitely more like my mother than me.

One of her specialities is that most stereotypical of teenage habits – rolling her eyes and sighing. She won't tell us why of course – we wouldn't understand. Instead she disappears to her study and starts thumping away at her word processor. She's also just as likely to slam doors, answer back or make biting, sarcastic comments.

Another thing that teenagers are always told off for is hypocrisy. The words 'double standards' are constantly ringing in my ears. My Mum tells us that we shouldn't drink alcohol/eat chocolate/spend too much money because she knows that is how she should behave. However, her nagging would be more effective if she wasn't telling us this in our new, ridiculously expensive kitchen, while drinking white wine and munching chocolate.

Mum has far worse moods than I do. She'll suddenly get obsessed about stupid stuff, such as us leaving towels on the bathroom floor and not cleaning the bath. She behaves as if it's the end of the world. At other times she'll get annoyed when I start doing my homework late on Sunday nights – as if she's the one to get detention if I don't finish it on time. It's ridiculous to trust me to be responsible enough to ride on public transport on my own, and not think I can organise my own schoolwork. I understand that she worries about me but she can be irritable for a whole day – about not being able to work the video, about her work not going well, about the sausages burning, or that nothing in her wardrobe fits her.

My Dad is just as guilty. We are told off daily for watching too much cable TV, as are most of my friends. And yet my Dad is having a giant plasma screen installed (with satellite box of course) so he can spend hours on Sunday watching his football team lose. Again.

My parents are very typical when it comes to money. I'm nagged about spending too much money on magazines, and yet Mum spends more than double my allowance on flowers, wine and silk pyjamas – she has five pairs. Untidiness, however, must be the worst sin. My room is, usually, untidy. I don't deny it and neither do most teenagers I know. Yet my parents can't see that their bedroom is untidy too. Almost every item of my Dad's clothing is piled on to a chair in the corner of their room.

In my view, teenagers get a very unfair representation in the papers and on TV. My parents can be just as bad as me. In fact, I should ring Harry Enfield. I have loads of material for two new characters.

Holly Graham

## SECTION B: 40 marks

*Answer Question B1 and Question B2.*

*In this section you will be assessed for your writing skills, including the presentation of your work.  
Take special care with handwriting, spelling, punctuation and layout.*

*Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.*

*A guide to the amount you should write is given with each question.*

- B1.** You have been asked to write a lively article for a newspaper with the title “How to cope with teenagers”.

**Write your article.**

[20]

*The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.*

- B2.** A ban on smoking in public places was introduced last year in England and in Wales.

**Write a letter to your local newspaper giving your views on this subject.**

[20]

*The quality of your writing is more important than its length. You should write about one to two pages in your answer book.*



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**Resource Material for use with Section A**

# KEVIN THE TEENAGER



When my son Harry Enfield was appearing on TV as his comic character ‘Kevin the Teenager’, practically every taxi driver in the land seemed to have a Kevin of his own at home whom he wished to tell me about in great detail. I think we can assume that drivers of taxis have not got fundamentally different lives from the rest of humanity, so it seems logical to conclude that ‘Kevins’ are a widespread phenomenon.

Scientists in California have ‘discovered’ that the surly moods of teenagers are caused by a temporary increase in nerve activity in the brain which makes it difficult for adolescents to ‘process information and read social situations’. This piece of research has no doubt taken a lot of time, effort and money and, as far as I can see, is entirely useless because it doesn’t lead anywhere. If grumpy teenagers have too much activity in their juvenile brains, what are we to do about it? Damp down their brains with chemicals? Give them a spoonful of ‘Teen-o-calm’? That seems unlikely.

To establish my credentials as an expert on this subject I wish to say that I’ve been through the teenage years five times in all, once on my own account and four times as the father of four children – three daughters and the creator of Kevin the Teenager himself.

For years I used to return from a hard day at the office to find the peace of the countryside shattered by the noise of

filthy pop music pouring out of the bedroom windows of the supposedly quiet cottage where we lived. The grunts, the sighs, the sulks – how they all come back to me!

There was a Kevin sketch in which he was somehow persuaded to wash the family car, which he did with very bad grace and extreme incompetence. If we approach this in a scientific spirit, then the information to be “processed” was: that the car was dirty; and the “social situation” to be read was that the father wanted it washed. I am confident that any teenager, however much afflicted with nerve activity in the brain, would be able to process and read all that without difficulty.

The problem with teenagers is just that they don’t want to.

Stepping into dangerous territory, I would say that the female teenager is less frightful than the male. I do not think that our daughters used to pocket their dinner money, lunch on coffee and cigarettes at the local cinema, and swear blind that they had had a proper meal at school. I am certain that our son Harry – a Kevin – used to do exactly that.

Likewise I do not think that any of my daughters smoked. If they had they would have done it in a more intelligent manner than their brother. He, of course, denied that he smoked at all, then blew the fumes out of his bedroom window and stubbed the butts out on the bottom of the windowsill outside. He seemed to believe they would stay there undetected forever, but naturally they eventually dropped off, and when I came to weed the flowerbed I found it deep in cigarette ends.

Nothing happened to the girls’ voices, but in mid-teens my son took to dropping half the syllables from his speech and slurring the rest. ‘Gonna gup ve yoofclub’ he would say and leave the house. From this we gathered he had gone to the youth club, though why ‘up’ we did not know, as it was not on a hill.

This was part of his double life. He would take with him a polythene bag which contained, unknown to us, his punk gear. Setting off in his usual scruffy state, he would transform

himself on route and arrive at the ‘yoof club’ dressed as a fully-fledged punk. He transformed himself back on the way home, and mercifully we never knew about it until after it was over.

The females did nothing so extraordinary. Their speciality was to choose a moment when we had visitors, dump themselves down in a grumpy manner and give the shortest and most disagreeable answers they could to any remarks addressed to them. In justice to the male, he was always pretty chatty in such circumstances.

But now, towards the end of a long life, what hope can I offer to those suffering from teenagers? I can only say that, in my experience, there are three times in life when life itself improves. The first is when you leave school and the last is when you leave work. The one in between is when your youngest child leaves home. At this great moment you suddenly find you have a second youth, and your children have miraculously reverted to being human beings.

Hang on in there, as they say. Your time will come.

Edward Enfield

