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**ENGLISH A2 – HIGHER LEVEL – PAPER 1**  
**ANGLAIS A2 – NIVEAU SUPÉRIEUR – ÉPREUVE 1**  
**INGLÉS A2 – NIVEL SUPERIOR – PRUEBA 1**

Tuesday 1 November 2011 (morning)  
Mardi 1 novembre 2011 (matin)  
Martes 1 de noviembre de 2011 (mañana)

2 hours / 2 heures / 2 horas

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**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Section B consists of two passages for comparative commentary.
- Choose either Section A or Section B. Write one comparative commentary.

**INSTRUCTIONS DESTINÉES AUX CANDIDATS**

- N'ouvrez pas cette épreuve avant d'y être autorisé(e).
- La section A comporte deux passages à commenter.
- La section B comporte deux passages à commenter.
- Choisissez soit la section A, soit la section B. Écrivez un commentaire comparatif.

**INSTRUCCIONES PARA LOS ALUMNOS**

- No abra esta prueba hasta que se lo autoricen.
- En la Sección A hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- En la Sección B hay dos fragmentos para comentar.
- Elija la Sección A o la Sección B. Escriba un comentario comparativo.

Choose either Section A **or** Section B.

### SECTION A

*Analyse and compare the following two texts.*

*Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.*

#### **Text 1**

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**Text 2**

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## SECTION B

Analyse and compare the following two texts.

Discuss the similarities and differences between the texts and their theme(s). Include comments on the ways the authors use elements such as structure, tone, images and other stylistic devices to communicate their purposes.

### Text 3

#### The river as fact

It has a length of 215 miles, and is navigable for 191 miles. It is the longest river in England but not in Britain, where the Severn is longer by approximately 5 miles. Nevertheless it must be the shortest river in the world to acquire such a famous history. The Amazon and the Mississippi cover almost 4,000 miles and the Yangtze almost 3,500 miles; but none of them has arrested the  
5 attention of the world in the manner of the Thames.

There are 134 bridges along the length of the Thames, and forty-four locks<sup>1</sup> above Teddington. There are approximately twenty major tributaries still flowing into the main river, while others such as the Fleet have now disappeared under the ground. Its ‘basin’, the area from which it derives its water from rain and other natural forces, covers an area of some 5,264 square miles.  
10 And then there are the springs, many of them in the woods or close to the streams beside the Thames. There is one in the wood below Sinodun Hills in Oxfordshire, for example, which has been described as an ‘everlasting spring’ always fresh and always renewed.

The average flow of the river at Teddington, chosen because it marks the place where the tidal and non-tidal waters touch, has been calculated at 1,145 millions of gallons (5,205 millions  
15 of litres) each day or approximately 2,000 cubic feet (56.6 cubic metres) per second. The current moves at a velocity of between  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  miles per hour. The main thrust of the river flow is known to hydrologists as the “thalweg”; it does not move in a straight and forward line but, mingling with the inner flow and variegated<sup>2</sup> flow of the surface and bottom waters, takes the form of a spiral or helix. More than 95% of the river’s energy is lost in turbulence and friction.

The direction of the flow of the Thames is therefore quixotic<sup>3</sup>. It might be assumed that it would move eastwards, but it defies any simple prediction. It does not meander like the Euphrates, where according to Herodotus<sup>4</sup> the voyager came upon the same village three times on three separate days, but it is circuitous. It specialises in loops. It will take the riparian traveller<sup>5</sup> two or  
20 three times as long to cover the same distance as a companion on the high road. So the Thames teaches you to take time, and to view the world from a different vantage.

Extract from *Hawksmoor* by Peter Ackroyd, published by Penguin.  
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<sup>1</sup> locks: where boats are raised or lowered as the water level changes

<sup>2</sup> variegated: variable

<sup>3</sup> quixotic: unpredictable, imaginative

<sup>4</sup> Herodotus: a historian of ancient Greece

<sup>5</sup> riparian traveller: a traveller following the river bank

Text 4

**Paddlesteamer Cruises from Adelaide on Australia's Murray River**

**8-day cruises by paddlesteamer along Australia's greatest river including transfers from Adelaide. 3-night weekend or 4-night midweek cruises available.**

The mighty Murray, the world's fifth largest river, courses more than 3,000 kilometres across one third of the Australian continent. From its source in the Snowy Mountains of New South  
5 Wales it travels to the Southern Ocean near Adelaide, the Murray/Darling Basin. The scenery is some of the most ancient on earth – a place where all the colours of Australia converge.

Cruise through miles of gorges, millions of years old. Discover golden sandstone cliffs towering over blue-green lagoons, majestic red gum forests under endless blue skies and green irrigated farmlands against red desert plains.

10 The Murray is a haven for over 350 species of birds. It's an outback oasis for a myriad of fascinating wildlife including majestic sulphur crested cockatoos, kangaroos, goannas, black swans, gentle pelicans and the legendary Murray Cod.

A fundamental part of Australia's heritage was founded in the proud paddlesteamer tradition. The Murray was the lifeline to pioneers who lived on the driest continent on earth. Over 200  
15 paddlesteamers plied the river day and night, negotiating hidden reefs, massive sandbars and treacherous passages.

Murray Princess is Australia's largest and most luxuriously appointed paddlewheeler. She represents a new age in inland cruising and an elegant recreation of a bygone era<sup>1</sup>. She was purpose built to offer an indulgent outback river experience. Her graceful  
20 stern paddlewheel, antique mahogany furnishings and spiral staircases, reflect the elegance of the grand era of Murray River cruising.

The lounges are spectacular meeting areas, with floor to ceiling windows affording panoramic views of the massive stern paddlewheel. The spacious upper decks offer plenty of sunny and shady retreats to escape with a cool drink and a good book. And for a total river adventure  
25 Murray Princess also carries an onboard tender<sup>2</sup> for exhilarating speed boat rides through the "big bends".

Onboard facilities include two spas, two saunas, two bars, two lounges, single sitting dining saloon, sun deck, speed boat, lift, library, video, guest laundry, gift shop and 24 hour tea and coffee facilities.

From the advertisement for Murray River cruises, [www.cruisingholidays.co.uk](http://www.cruisingholidays.co.uk)  
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<sup>1</sup> a bygone era: a time now past

<sup>2</sup> tender: a small boat for taking passengers on and off the steamer

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