



GCSE

4171/02

**ENGLISH/ENGLISH LANGUAGE
HIGHER TIER
UNIT 1 (READING)**

A.M. TUESDAY, 5 November 2013

1 hour

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Resource Material.

An 8 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **all** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer book provided.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark available for this unit is 40.

The number of marks in brackets will give you an indication of the time you should spend on each question or part-question.

Answer all the following questions.

The passage on the opposite page is an internet essay, 'I love the Grand National - but this was agonising to watch', by Peter Scudamore, a former jockey.

*The **separate Resource Material** is a newspaper article, 'Calls to ban National after two horses die', by Andrew Tyler.*

Read lines 1-23 of the internet essay, 'I love the Grand National – but this was agonising to watch', by Peter Scudamore.

1. According to Peter Scudamore, what is it like to ride in the Grand National? [10]

Now read the rest of the internet essay (from lines 24-44).

2. What does Peter Scudamore think and feel about the Grand National in this section of his essay? [10]

Now read the newspaper article by Andrew Tyler in the separate Resource Material, 'Calls to ban National after two horses die'.

3. How does Andrew Tyler try to convince his readers that the Grand National should be banned? [10]

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

4. According to these two writers, why is the Grand National dangerous?

Organise your answer into two paragraphs using the following headings:

- Peter Scudamore's views
- Andrew Tyler's views

[10]

You must make it clear in your answer which text you are taking your information from.

I love the Grand National – but this was agonising to watch

By Peter Scudamore

I knew I had a real chance of winning the 1988 Grand National. My horse, Strands of Gold, had given me a near-perfect ride on the first circuit. We were in the lead and moving easily. Then, suddenly, it all went wrong.

As I prepared to clear the notorious Becher's Brook, the most dangerous fence on the racecourse, the horse put in an extra stride. We hit the fence very hard and, in a split second, I knew I was going down. Aware that the rest of the horses would be coming over the huge fence any second, instinct took over. I rolled myself into a tight ball and lay as still as I could. The thunder of approaching hooves was almost deafening. On that occasion, I was lucky. They missed and I was able to walk away.

On another occasion, I was less fortunate, suffering a crashing fall at a fence before Becher's that broke my nose and left me nursing bruises for days. Take it from me, those fences are very big and very challenging and demand the utmost from both horse and rider.

Each time I lined up at the start the tension was always electric. Every jockey knows they could be badly hurt, but in your stomach there's a strange feeling that is part excitement, part anticipation, and part fear.

The early part of the race is a danger point, when the adrenaline is kicking in, the nerves are jangling and the horses are like coiled springs. The first fence always trips a few up, the intensity and emotion of the day proving too much either for the horse or the rider, and sometimes both.

The open ditch of the third shakes up one or two horses as they discover, too late, that these famous fences – more than 5ft tall and wider than almost any others – are not for them. Already the field will be strung out and there will be loose horses getting in the way, horses charged with excitement and out of control that could crash into you and bring you down. And then there is that ever-present fear of stumbling over a horse that's fallen in front of you.

But that doesn't make horse racing callous or cruel. The Grand National has always been a dangerous and potentially deadly race and jockeys accept that. The risks to their horses and themselves is part of the job.

I love the Grand National – it's the toughest horse race in the world, demanding the very most from both horse and rider – and I'll defend it to my last breath. But even I can see that this year's race was agonising to watch for many, and not the greatest advertisement for the sport. Two horses were killed on live television and the winning horse seemed close to collapse as it passed the winning post.

Opponents of the race will have a field day, but it's important that supporters of the race react sensibly and calmly. The conditions at this year's race were unusual. It was hot, the ground was hard and the race was fast. Higher speed inevitably increases the danger to both horse and rider.

If the racing authorities decide that a race as challenging as the Grand National should not be contested on such fast ground again, I would not be against that. But we must resist calls for the fences to be made smaller. When my father won the race in 1959, the fences were far bigger than they are now. They have been progressively reduced in size, supposedly to reduce the number of horses being killed, but horses are still occasionally killed because the smaller fences can now be jumped at higher speeds.

I think we have to accept what professional jockeys live with every day – that jumping any fence on a galloping horse is a risky business. We also have to acknowledge that it is this element of risk to both horse and rider that makes the Grand National such a compelling spectator sport. Make it too safe and it simply won't be the Grand National.

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