

**Tuesday 3 June 2014 – Morning****GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (NI)****A633/02/RBI** Information and Ideas (Higher Tier)**READING BOOKLET INSERT****Duration:** 2 hours**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

- The materials in this READING BOOKLET INSERT are for use with the questions in Section **A** of the Question Paper Insert.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

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The following text is taken from the Greenpeace website. Greenpeace is an international organisation devoted to the protection of the environment.

## GREED IN THE GLOBAL WHALING INDUSTRY

The statistics say it all. The number of blue whales in the Antarctic Ocean has fallen to less than 1% of its original size, despite 40 years of complete 'protection'. The West Pacific grey whale hovers on the edge of extinction with just over 100 remaining. But whaling is no longer the only threat to whales. Human impact on the oceans has changed dramatically over the last half century since whales have been 'protected'.



### Consumption, contamination and catastrophe

Global warming, pollution and industrial overfishing are threatening the whales' food supply, with the additional risk of whales becoming entangled in fishing gear. Yet despite these accumulating threats, whales are still hunted and now an increasing number of nations are voting to continue or resume commercial whaling.

### Myths and Reality

The whaling industry uses half-truths and outright lies to defend itself. Here Greenpeace shoots down their myths and sets the record straight.

#### Myth No. 1: Whales eat too many fish and their numbers must be reduced

Many whales do not eat fish at all; indeed, according to whalers' own records, between 1987 and 2005 not a single fish was found in the stomachs of whales caught in three out of four whaling zones. As much as the whaling industry would like to blame whales, it is commercial overfishing by man that is the cause of the catastrophic decline of worldwide fish stocks.

#### Myth No. 2: Whaling is essential for traditional, cultural or nutritional reasons

Japan's whaling 'tradition' dates back only a few centuries and is centred on a few coastal communities. Japan's Antarctic whaling did not even begin until the 1930s and was only expanded following World War II as a means of feeding a starving population. Nowadays, demand for whale meat is low. If you are thinking of eating whale meat, you might want to think again. The blubber of dead whales fished in the more polluted seas is so highly contaminated that it would be classified as toxic waste! It is estimated that Japan has more than 4,000 tons of whale meat in cold storage, uneaten, unsold and unwanted.

#### Myth No. 3: Whalers have learned from the mistakes of the past

Those who argue for the return of commercial whaling say that lessons have been learned. Recent evidence suggests that this is not the case. Pro-whalers seek to achieve the highest possible hunting quotas, manipulating population figures. Japan seeks to target both fin whales, which are still endangered, and humpbacked whales, which are still considered to be vulnerable. Investigations have also revealed that the same countries arguing for a return to whaling have illegally overfished other species, so that the once plentiful Southern Bluefin tuna is now critically endangered.

**Testimony of an ex-whaler**

“In 1949 I became a boy whaler. In those days the idea of animal rights didn’t exist. All we cared about was how many whales were caught on a given day, how many barrels of whale oil that represented, and how much that meant for us come pay day at the end of the trip. Blood money. I killed not just one whale but thousands. Looking back now, I am disgusted and ashamed that I ever participated in the brutal and bloody slaughter of such beautiful and intelligent animals. Perhaps, in the past, a lack of resources could justify hunting. Industry, particularly during the war, depended on valuable whale oil, and whale meat supplemented the nation’s diet at a time when all types of food were scarce. Now the world has moved forward, and nothing can justify the killing.”

**An irony – and potential hope**

One of the ironies of the fight to end commercial whaling is that, over the past decade, another industry has grown up which profits from the whale. Tourism. World-wide, an estimated nine million people go whale watching every year. Most whales are migratory, moving around the oceans to breed and feed, and much of this takes place in coastal water, where large groups of whales can often be clearly seen, either from small boats or from the shore. The most explosive growth in this form of tourism has been in Iceland, which has experienced a 500% increase over the past decade, making this kind of eco-tourism far more valuable to the Icelandic economy than commercial whaling is, or ever was. Not only is whale watching profitable; if conducted properly, it also promotes appreciation of the marine environment and conservation issues among the wider public.

If we want to have whales to watch in the future, we must act now to ban all forms of commercial whaling and secure a clean ocean environment to ensure real long-term protection for all the world’s whales.

## ON WHALING

*The following extracts are adapted from the book 'Stephen Fry in America', which accompanied the television series of the same name.*

### **Nantucket, Massachusetts**

Much of the prosperity of nineteenth-century Massachusetts derived from the now disgraced industry of whaling. The centre of this grisly trade was the island town of Nantucket, now a neat and pretty, if somewhat dull, tourist resort. I feel it is wrong to judge our ancestors according to our own moral codes, but nonetheless it is hard to understand how once we slaughtered so many whales with so little compassion.

I am shown around the whaling museum by Nathaniel Philbrick, the leading historian of the area and a man boundlessly enthusiastic about all things Nantuckian.

'The whaling companies were the BPs and Mobils of their day,' he says as we pass an enormous whale skeleton. 'The oil from sperm whales lit the lamps of the western world and lubricated the moving parts of industry.'

'But it was such a slaughter...'

Nathaniel hears this every day. 'Can't deny it. But look what we're doing now in order to get today's equivalent. Petroleum.'

'Yes, but...'

'The Nantucket whalers destroyed one species for its oil, which I don't defend, but we tear the whole earth to pieces, endangering hundreds of thousands of species. We fill the air with a climate-changing pollution that threatens all life, including all whales. How will our descendants look at us?' He wonders. 'Only a fool could deny the courage and endurance of the New England whalers. But will our great-grandchildren say the same about the oil-tanker crews?'

A petroleum-burning ferry takes me away from Nantucket.

### **Barrow, Alaska**

In the height of Barrow's summer it sometimes gets above freezing. That is the best they have to look forward to. The majority of the town's population is made up of Inupiat Eskimos who survive by hunting caribou, fish and whale. The authorities who govern these issues allow the Eskimos of Barrow to hunt twenty-two whales a year. The whales, principally bowhead and beluga, are shared amongst the whole community. In a land where fruit and fresh vegetables are hard to come by even today, whale meat, and especially the *muktuk* or skin and nasty bits, provide all the vitamins and nutrition that the Eskimo needs.

I have an appointment with whaling captain Henry, who invites me into his home to meet his bouncy and boisterous family. Henry is delightful: a warm, friendly and very proud Eskimo. He makes his own drums, fashions his own tools and he tries to live a life his ancestors would approve of. He agrees to take me to see his whaling boat. The season is nearly upon us and it may be that whales will be spotted in the open sea. I am quite happy if we don't see a whale, for it would mean a killing. While I fully respect the traditional rights of these people, and while I recognise that their hunting techniques on oar-powered boats have never endangered the bowhead or the beluga populations, I am still reluctant to watch the slaughter of any whale, no matter how traditionally done it might be.

We arrive at the whaler, which is not much bigger than the average suburban dining-table. A crew of eight, at a moment's notice, can run the boat off the ice and jump into it just as it hits the water – water in which a human could not survive for more than three minutes. They practise so hard that no one ever falls in. Once they are afloat, however, the real work begins, for they have no source of power other than their own calories: the paddle power of eight land animals against a marine animal more than eight times bigger. At least it seems like a fair fight.

Henry shows me his harpoons (which are armed with little internal bombs) which he assures me end the life of the whale instantly. The Inupiat Eskimo take pride in never causing pain or distress to their quarry. Henry hands over a brass whale gun. It weighs sixty pounds and I can barely lift it to my shoulder.

We stand where the frozen sea ends and watch the horizon. I am glad to say that I see no whales.

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