

## Text sources for learners studying GCSE English Language.

For learners taking AQA (9-1) GCSE English Language Paper 2, Question 4.

Text sources to accompany the resource “High Heels and Suits” kindly contributed to [www.skillsworkshop.org](http://www.skillsworkshop.org) by Nikki Milton, July 2021.

To find the two related PowerPoints (one for Q4a and one for Q4b) search for Nikki Milton on skillsworkshop.

### Sources

Text A: *Moranifesto*, Caitlin Moran. The Times newspaper, 2016.

Text B: *Across the Pond: An American Gentleman in Victorian England*, Ralph David Blumenfeld, 1930 (Diary extract for Friday November 14<sup>th</sup> 1890).

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE		Enlarged <b>bold</b> font indicates main coverage.
READING (50% weighting)		
A1	(a) Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. (b) Select and synthesise evidence from different texts.	
A2	Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views	
A3	<b>Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.</b>	
A4	Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.	
WRITING (50% weighting)		
A5	(a) Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. (b) Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.	
A6	Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation (must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole).	
SPOKEN LANGUAGE (unweighted)		
A7	Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.	
A8	Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations.	
A9	Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.	

DfE (2013), English Language *GCSE subject content and assessment objectives*.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-english-language-and-gcse-english-literature-new-content>

## **‘I have given up heels. Like, totally’**

I came to a decision last week that, frankly, I’m surprised I didn’t make years ago: I’ve given up on heels.

5 I thought I had no option, you see. If you’re going to a black-tie event, that means wearing a dress – and if you’re wearing a dress, you have to wear heels. Smart black cocktail dresses look weird without heels. Most eveningwear looks weird without heels. You *could* ***boldly*** wear trainers, like Lily Allen in 2005 – but that seems too contrary. You’re not trying to make a massive style statement. You just want to look *normal*, and nice. Appropriate.

10 And so, you put on the Bitesize pads, and the heels, and the dress, and pay the cab fare, and don’t dance, and gradually slump in pain, and then – if you’re me – fall down a flight of stairs and break three ribs, and think, ‘You know what – balls to this. I’m tired of being scared of stairs, and spending every important event I go to worried  
15 I’ll fall over and show my knickers. I’m going to do what men do.’

For when men go to evening events, they can run upstairs, and dance, and get the Tube there and back, thus saving £50 – because they wear a suit, and some nice shoes, which they might have polished; but that is pretty much the extent of their primping.  
20 They are safe and comfortable and happier and better off, simply because they are not wearing a short tight dress and a pair of heels.

At the last two events I went to – award ceremonies, black tie – I did as men do. I wore a suit. A tuxedo jacket, shorts, a silk blouse, and flat shoes: flat green-and-gold brogues and Marni, that I  
25 can walk to the Tube in, and dance in, and stand in with perfect posture, enjoying my evening.

And it felt *amazing*- to be able to walk around with my hands in my pocket, whistling. To feel ease. To know I never feel anxious about what to wear to a posh event again – I’ve got my outfit, and  
30 my shoes, and I don’t really need to think about them again for the next five years – unless it’s to go wild, and maybe buy a blue blouse.

I feel like I’d discovered an astonishing secret.

So, yes. I have finally given up heels. And it is just jim-dandy.

## ‘Improperly Dressed’ by Ralph David Blumenfeld

Unfortunately, I was what was called ‘improperly dressed’.  
I have not conformed to the rule that in order to have the  
**entrée** in the City one must wear a silk hat and a **frock coat**.

5 I have been disporting myself in a bowler hat and tweeds,  
while I still further **transgress** by wearing light flannel shirts  
instead of white linen. It is something of a fad to be wearing  
these loose garments, but I am pleasing myself, and not  
Dame Fashion. I frequently notice that my loose-fronted  
shirt is the object of comment among people, who think that  
10 one is uncivilised unless the manly bosom is adorned with a  
stiff white shirt.

So, I presented myself at the Bank and, handing in my  
**card**, asked to see the Governor, Mr Lidderdale. A  
**functionary** in a frock coat, who took my card, scrutinised  
15 me suspiciously, **boggled** at my tweed suit and brown  
shoes and my outrageous shirt, and then turned on his heel  
to fetch a colleague, also in a frock coat. He, too, looked  
puzzled, but I insisted, and finally they took my card.