

**Source B, adapted from:**

**OF THE STREET-SELLERS OF ICES AND OF ICE CREAMS**

by Henry Mayhew, 1861

The sale of ice-creams was unknown in the streets until last summer, and was first introduced by a man who was acquainted with the confectionary business, and who purchased his ices of a confectioner in Holborn. He resold these luxuries daily to street-sellers, sometimes to twenty of them, but more frequently to twelve.

5 The sale, however, was not remunerative, and had it not been generally united with other things, such as ginger beer, could not have been carried on as a means of subsistence. The supplier of the street-traders sometimes went himself, and sometimes sent another to sell ice-cream in Greenwich Park on fine summer days, but the sale was sometimes insufficient to pay his railway expenses. After three or  
10 four weeks' trial, this man abandoned the trade.

Not many weeks after "the first start," I was informed, the trade was entered into by a street-seller in Petticoat-lane. He did not vend the ices himself for more than two or three weeks, and moreover confined his sale to Sunday mornings; after a while he employed himself for a short time in making ices for four or five street-  
15 sellers, some of whom looked upon the preparation as a wonderful discovery of his own, and he then discontinued the trade.

There were many difficulties attending the introduction of ices into street-traffic. The buyers had but a confused notion how the ice was to be swallowed. The  
20 trade, therefore, spread only very gradually, but some of the more enterprising sellers purchased stale ices from the confectioners. So little, however, were the street-people skilled in the trade, that a confectioner told me they sometimes offered ice to their customers in the streets but could supply only water! The profit, however, was sometimes what is expressively called "nil." The favourite  
25 and simple rate known in the streets as "halfprofits" was rarely attained.

From a street-dealer I received the following account: "Yes, sir, I remember very well the first time as I ever sold ices. I don't think they'll ever take greatly in the streets, but there's no saying. Lord! how I've seen the people splutter when  
30 they've tasted them for the first time. I did as much myself. They get among the teeth and make you feel as if you tooth-ached all over. I sold mostly strawberry

## Ice cream: GCSE English Language, AQA Paper 2

### Source B

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



ices. I haven't an idea how they're made, but it's a most wonderful thing in summer - freezing fruits in that way. One young Irish fellow - I think from his look and cap he was a printer's or stationer's boy - he bought an ice of me, and when  
35 he had scraped it all together with the spoon, he made a pull at it as if he was a drinking beer. In course it was all among his teeth in less than no time, and he stood like a statue for an instant, and then he roared out, - 'Jasus! I'm kilt. The cold shivers is on to me!'

"The rest of my customers was people that bought out of curiosity, and there was  
40 servant maids, gentlemen's servants, and doctors' boys; and mechanics and schoolboys; and a few women of the town, - but mine's not much of a pitch for them."

From the information I obtained, the sale of street ices gives a profit to the vendors of from 10 to 25 per cent. I am told that an unsuccessful start has  
45 characterised other street trades - rhubarb for instance, both in the streets and markets - which have been afterwards successful and remunerative.