

## Worksheet 2(a)

1. Finding past papers on the Edexcel website
2. Answering short answer questions on the Foundation Tier paper

This worksheet has two tasks. Your first task is to navigate your way to the past paper section on the Edexcel web-site. The second task is to do a practice 'short answer' question on a real exam paper.

### Why is it good to practise with real past papers?



In Chapter 2 you learned how to answer what are known as 'short answer' questions. As you will have gathered, these basically involve testing your understanding of pieces of writing; in other words they are testing if you can read and understand.

As I described in the chapter, for the Foundation tier, these questions aren't difficult. In fact a lot of the time you'll find yourself saying, 'Well *duh!*' But the key to answering these questions is to be able to answer quickly and accurately - and again, practice will help you here.

By far the best way to get used to answering these sorts of questions is to practise reading and answering actual question from real past papers. This kills two birds with one stone (hope you aren't a bird watcher!). First of all, it gives you practice with reading pieces of writing which you won't have seen before. Secondly it gets you used to looking at actual exam papers, so they won't be too intimidating when you actually come to do the exam.



For this worksheet I would like you to look at a Foundation Tier paper for the May 2005 exam so your first job is to find it! Edexcel are notorious for moving things around on their web-site, but your first task is to find the past paper! Here's what to do:

1. Go to the Edexcel web-site at [www.Edexcel.com](http://www.Edexcel.com)
2. In the left hand box entitled **Qualifications Finder** choose **Current IGCSEs** in the first drop down box.
3. In the second drop down box, **Select a Subject**, choose **English Language** (not English as a Second Language).
4. This will take you to a page with a centre pane called '**Documents**'.
5. In the **Documents** pane, click **Examination papers** and this will bring you to a selection of past papers.
6. Choose **Examination Paper – Foundation Tier May 2005**
7. Print off the past paper (to save wasting paper, you might like to check through the exam paper and only print those sheets that have writing on them).

Alternatively, you could try pasting the following link into your browser.

[http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/Current%20IGCSE/230360\\_43552H.pdf](http://www.edexcel.com/migrationdocuments/Current%20IGCSE/230360_43552H.pdf)

If you have difficulty finding the past paper this way, email me and I shall send it to you as an attachment.

**Now read the passage carefully and answer the first four questions.**

Before you start, you might like to spend a bit of time familiarising yourself with the paper. I know it looks a bit intimidating, but it isn't really. Past papers always have the same layout and it helps to get used to what they look like.

The first thing to note is that the questions are printed before the passage! Don't panic. You'll find the passage itself at the end of the past paper. If you've downloaded the right one, towards the end of the paper you'll find a really interesting article called **The First Landing on the Moon**. I want you to read this article very carefully, then answer the questions 1 - 4 on Section A. You'll find these on Page 2 of the past paper.

One final thing... It would be good to get into the habit of timing your answers to make sure that you are up to speed, so make a note of when you start and when you complete the paper.

OK? Stopwatches and highlighter pens at the ready?

Great. Let's have some fun!

PS Hang on to the past paper when you've finished – we'll be using it again in other worksheets.

**Read the following passage carefully and then answer questions 1 to 6, printed on page 2 of the examination paper.**

### **The First Landing on the Moon**

*This is the story of the first landing on the moon. Commander Neil Armstrong was the pilot of the landingcraft, known as The Eagle, and he was the first man to stand on the surface of the moon. He was followed by Buzz Aldrin. A third astronaut, Michael Collins, waited for them in orbit around the moon.*

Now the world could only listen and pray as it waited for the landing. Armstrong advanced the throttle until the descent engine reached maximum thrust. Then, five minutes into the manoeuvre, the crewmen began hearing alarms. On one occasion, the computer told them a switch was in the wrong position, and they corrected it. Another time, they could find no reason for the alarm, but they juggled the switches and the clanging stopped. Coping with these alarms, some of which were caused by computer overloads, lasted four minutes. By the time they had a chance to look outside, only 600 metres and three minutes' time separated them from the lunar surface.

Armstrong saw the landing site immediately. He also saw that the touchdown would be just short of a large rocky crater with boulders, some as large as five metres in diameter, scattered over a wide area. If he could land just in front of that spot, he thought, they might find the area of some scientific interest. But the thought was fleeting; such a landing would be impossible. Flying across the boulder field, Armstrong soon found a relatively smooth area, lying between some sizeable craters and another field of boulders.

Armstrong was concentrating so hard on flying the landing craft that he was unable to feel the first touch on the moon, nor did he hear Aldrin call out "contact light," when the footpads brushed the surface. The landing craft settled gently down, like a helicopter, and Armstrong cut off the engine.

*Armstrong to Base:* "The Eagle has landed."

*Base:* "OK Eagle. We're breathing again."

And Armstrong started breathing again, too. He was not pleased with his piloting, but landing on the moon was much trickier than landing on the earth. Aldrin thought it "a very smooth touchdown."

Finally, it was time to open the hatch, and prepare to step out onto the moon. Armstrong was wondering if the light would be good enough for the television camera to capture his first step. The crewmen could not wait any longer; six hours and twenty-one minutes after landing, they pulled the hatch open, and Aldrin watched carefully as Armstrong backed out. Then the watching world saw what it had been waiting for – Armstrong's first step onto the moon.

"That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

With this historic moment behind him, Armstrong began to talk about the surface, about the powdery charcoal-like layers of dust, as he and the television camera looked at his bootprints in the lunar soil. Armstrong described the stark beauty of the moon, likening

the area to high desert country. When Aldrin asked, “Are you ready for me to come out?” Armstrong answered, “Yes.” Eighteen minutes and twelve seconds after the first man stepped on the moon, he was joined by his companion.

Armstrong unveiled the plaque to be left on the moon and read the words on it to a vast listening audience:

*Here Man from the planet Earth first set foot upon the Moon, July 1969. We came in peace for all mankind.*

A little later they held the flag-raising ceremony. Collins, circling above, was probably the only person around without television coverage of the event.

The astronauts began the scientific part of their mission. Aldrin began collecting the samples. Reminded that scientists wanted two core-tube specimens, he pushed the tube about ten centimetres into the ground and began tapping it with a hammer. When it did not go much further, he hit it until the hammer made dents in the top of the tube. Even then he could only get it about five centimetres deeper. He pulled the tube out of the ground. He tried again about five metres away, but the results were not much better. Armstrong had been taking photographs and filling sample boxes with lunar rocks and surface soil, describing what he was doing as he went from place to place. He operated the camera, even though it was difficult to use with his gloves on.

After an hour and three-quarters on the surface, Aldrin heard, “Head on up the ladder, Buzz.” The first step was a long one, and the soil on the soles of his boots made the rungs slippery, but he made it. The crew hauled the sample boxes and cameras back into the cabin. Neither crewman had any trouble getting into the cabin.

Base told Collins that the lunar walkers had returned to their landing craft. Mission accomplished.

**Now try to answer the following questions. The little numbers in brackets show you what marks you’d get for this answer on a Foundation tier paper.**

1. What did the crew do on either occasion when the alarms went off? (1)
2. What sort of landscape does Neil Armstrong compare the moon to? (2)
3. In the second paragraph, the writer tells us about some features of the landing site. Give **two** points which were important to Armstrong in order to make a safe touchdown. (3)
4. Look again at the paragraphs towards the end of the passage which begin ‘The astronaut...’ and end with ‘...gloves on’. Explain the difficulties Aldrin faced when collecting his samples, and how he tried to overcome them. (3)