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Pearson Edexcel Functional Skills – Level 2

Past Paper 9

Time: 75 minutes

Paper Reference **PENR2/S09**

English

Component 2: Reading Text Booklet

Do not return this Text Booklet with the Question and Answer Booklet.

Instructions

- You should write your answers in the Question and Answer Booklet.
- You must **not** write any responses to questions in this Text Booklet.

Information

- This Text Booklet contains the three texts required for the Level 2 Component 2: Reading exam.
- This Text Booklet must be securely destroyed by the centre immediately after the exam has been completed.

Advice

- Read each text before you answer the questions.

DO NOT USE FOR LIVE EXAMS
*****PRACTICE PAPER*****

Turn over ►

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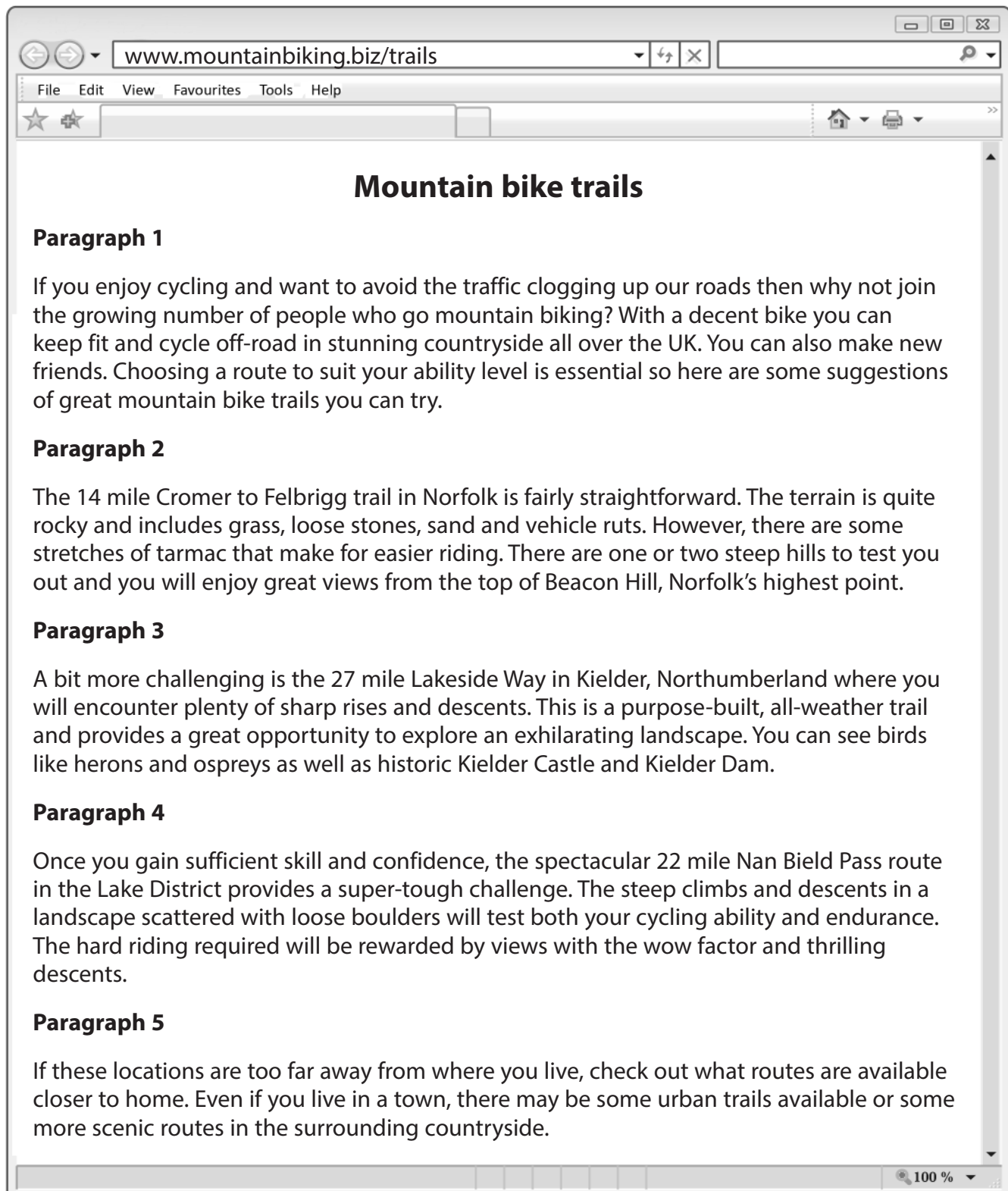
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Pearson

Text A

Webpage



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing 'www.mountainbiking.biz/trails'. The browser has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favourites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. The webpage content is as follows:

Mountain bike trails

Paragraph 1

If you enjoy cycling and want to avoid the traffic clogging up our roads then why not join the growing number of people who go mountain biking? With a decent bike you can keep fit and cycle off-road in stunning countryside all over the UK. You can also make new friends. Choosing a route to suit your ability level is essential so here are some suggestions of great mountain bike trails you can try.

Paragraph 2

The 14 mile Cromer to Felbrigg trail in Norfolk is fairly straightforward. The terrain is quite rocky and includes grass, loose stones, sand and vehicle ruts. However, there are some stretches of tarmac that make for easier riding. There are one or two steep hills to test you out and you will enjoy great views from the top of Beacon Hill, Norfolk's highest point.

Paragraph 3

A bit more challenging is the 27 mile Lakeside Way in Kielder, Northumberland where you will encounter plenty of sharp rises and descents. This is a purpose-built, all-weather trail and provides a great opportunity to explore an exhilarating landscape. You can see birds like herons and ospreys as well as historic Kielder Castle and Kielder Dam.

Paragraph 4

Once you gain sufficient skill and confidence, the spectacular 22 mile Nan Bield Pass route in the Lake District provides a super-tough challenge. The steep climbs and descents in a landscape scattered with loose boulders will test both your cycling ability and endurance. The hard riding required will be rewarded by views with the wow factor and thrilling descents.

Paragraph 5

If these locations are too far away from where you live, check out what routes are available closer to home. Even if you live in a town, there may be some urban trails available or some more scenic routes in the surrounding countryside.

100 %

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Text B

Article

Beginners' guide to mountain biking

by Chris Alston

I enjoy everything about mountain biking, particularly the adrenaline rush it produces as well as the time I spend in the great outdoors. Mountain biking is not just about rocks, bumps and dips. There are local bridleways and open moorlands that can be enjoyed and the sport is accessible to anyone who can ride a bike and wants some real adventure in their life.

Some forestry trails can be ridden on a fairly standard, cheap and cheerful bike with front suspension, but if you wish to tackle a more challenging landscape, you may want to buy a full suspension mountain bike, which will provide a more comfortable ride. Any bike shop can give you advice – just visit the one in your local area.

It doesn't matter how old you are as all ages can enjoy mountain biking and the sport is booming. You'll be pleasantly surprised by how many local opportunities for mountain biking exist. You can find beginners' courses across the country and the Cycling UK website is a good place to look for a heads-up about events in your area. You could even become a fully-fledged leader, guiding groups on off-road routes and trails.

To anyone who is nervous about trying mountain biking, I say give it a go as it is not as scary as you might think. If you already have bike skills, you will be fine. You can make it as easy or as difficult as you like and you can always hire the equipment you will need before committing to buying, just in case mountain biking is not for you. Rising numbers of people love it – the thrill of riding through forests and areas off the beaten track is amazing and there are numerous benefits for mental health and physical wellbeing. Plus, there are many social benefits from riding with a group, meeting new people and making new friends.

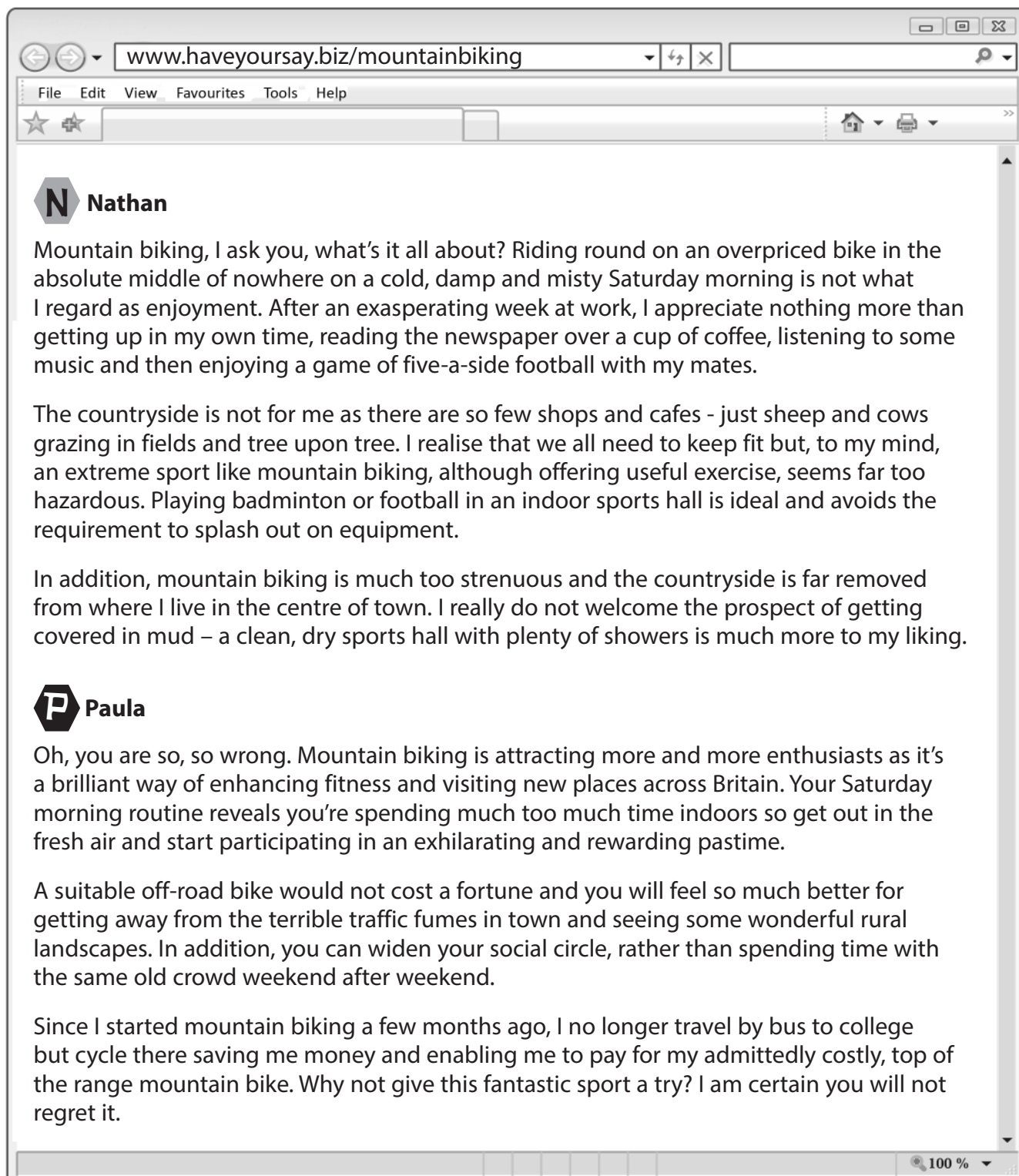
Chris Alston is an experienced mountain bike leader who works as a Development Officer for Cycling UK.

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Adapted from: 'Beginners' guide to mountain biking' by Angellica Bell, Waitrose Magazine

Text C

Discussion forum



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar containing www.haveyoursay.biz/mountainbiking. The browser has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Favourites', 'Tools', and 'Help'. Below the menu bar is a search bar and a home button. The main content area displays a forum post by a user named Nathan, whose profile picture is a grey hexagon with a white 'N'. Nathan's post consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph expresses his dislike for mountain biking on a Saturday morning. The second paragraph describes his preference for the countryside and indoor sports. The third paragraph mentions his location in the center of town and his preference for a clean sports hall. Below Nathan's post is a reply by a user named Paula, whose profile picture is a grey hexagon with a white 'P'. Paula's reply consists of three paragraphs. The first paragraph praises mountain biking as a fitness and travel activity. The second paragraph discusses the cost of an off-road bike and the benefits of riding in the countryside. The third paragraph shares her personal experience of switching from bus to bicycle to save money and enjoy the sport.

N Nathan

Mountain biking, I ask you, what's it all about? Riding round on an overpriced bike in the absolute middle of nowhere on a cold, damp and misty Saturday morning is not what I regard as enjoyment. After an exasperating week at work, I appreciate nothing more than getting up in my own time, reading the newspaper over a cup of coffee, listening to some music and then enjoying a game of five-a-side football with my mates.

The countryside is not for me as there are so few shops and cafes - just sheep and cows grazing in fields and tree upon tree. I realise that we all need to keep fit but, to my mind, an extreme sport like mountain biking, although offering useful exercise, seems far too hazardous. Playing badminton or football in an indoor sports hall is ideal and avoids the requirement to splash out on equipment.

In addition, mountain biking is much too strenuous and the countryside is far removed from where I live in the centre of town. I really do not welcome the prospect of getting covered in mud – a clean, dry sports hall with plenty of showers is much more to my liking.

P Paula

Oh, you are so, so wrong. Mountain biking is attracting more and more enthusiasts as it's a brilliant way of enhancing fitness and visiting new places across Britain. Your Saturday morning routine reveals you're spending much too much time indoors so get out in the fresh air and start participating in an exhilarating and rewarding pastime.

A suitable off-road bike would not cost a fortune and you will feel so much better for getting away from the terrible traffic fumes in town and seeing some wonderful rural landscapes. In addition, you can widen your social circle, rather than spending time with the same old crowd weekend after weekend.

Since I started mountain biking a few months ago, I no longer travel by bus to college but cycle there saving me money and enabling me to pay for my admittedly costly, top of the range mountain bike. Why not give this fantastic sport a try? I am certain you will not regret it.

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