

5A



# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR TEACHING FROM 2015

CPD AUTUMN 2015

COMPONENT 2

EXEMPLAR RESPONSES (UNANNOTATED)



## Component 2 Exemplar Responses

### A2. How does Charles Starmer-Smith show that cycling is an enjoyable activity?

You should comment on:

- what he says;
- his use of language and tone

[10]

A2.

Charles in the opening paragraph describes himself as “revelling in the freedom of pedal power”. Also he uses exaggeration saying, “the Alps of Surrey” to show how anyone can, when cycling, feel like a professional and enjoy it. When he says, “I weave easily through the noisy commuters” it shows cycling is both faster and more enjoyable than other forms of transport. Saying, “No deadlines. No delays” emphasises cycling as peaceful and easy. He describes his time as “precious moments” to emphasise his enjoyment. Charles even describes “my love of cycling” to show how much he enjoys it. Also, he says, “the landscape of Britain is perfect for cycling” to show that it is the best place to enjoy biking. He also says, “we are clocking more than a million journeys”. This combines a statistic to entice the reader but shows how many other people are cycling, showing it is a good thing to do. Using `we` makes it seem like a group and a way to meet new people. In the tag line of the story, cycling is described as a “lost love”. This again shows his love for cycling and shows how others can do the same.

A2.

Charles Starmer-Smith shows that cycling is an enjoyable activity. One way that he does this is his use of language. Instead of using words such as `good` he uses words such as `epic`, `mind-boggling` and `legendary`. These words seem to exaggerate how he feels about cycling which makes it seem very enjoyable. Another way he shows that cycling is enjoyable is the structure of the article. He begins the text by telling stories from his childhood and uses words such as “revelling” to begin to show you his love for cycling. He then tells you stories of how cycling was no longer a favourable thing to him but how he went back to it. He then begins to bring in factors about why cycling is beneficial to the world and how is it the “answer to rising carbon emissions”. This makes you realise why cycling is better. He also talks about how people in cars get stuck in traffic, whereas cyclists can “weave easily through noisy commuters and chocking traffic”. This shows you the appeal of cycling once again and he then talks about famous cyclists. This is effective because the article then appeals to people who like those specific cyclists but also because it shows you that quite a few people cycle and are quite famous for it. He then ends the article with facts and figures about cycling today, such as “the national cycle network covers a mind-boggling 10,000 miles.” This makes you realise how much cycling is preferred and that it is very popular.

A2.

A way that Starmer-Smith expresses cycling as an enjoyable activity is when he writes, "But I soon forget the cold" and goes on to discuss how picturesque the "patchwork of green fields" and the "plunging valleys" are. He makes cycling seem rewarding and peaceful when he mentions the "escapism" and the "panoramic views". Another way that he makes cycling seem enjoyable is when, in short, two-word sentences, he writes, "No deadlines. No delays" which would appeal to the modern reader, not only adults, due to the desirable sense of freedom.

A2.

One way Starmer-Smith shows that cycling is enjoyable is through his use of exaggeration, which the text is littered with from back to front. His use of the phrase, "the Alps of Surrey" is a clear example of this as he is not saying there are Alp-like mountains in Surrey, but rather that is the challenge he faces just from a regular cycle, as his "conversion to cycling has come late". Another way he does this is when he begins his article with an anecdote of a childhood thrill he felt cycling through villages in France and "revelling in the freedom" that cycling can bestow. He also uses the fact that cycling has become a more popular sport over the years, and the "Tour de France greats" can inspire anyone and everyone. He speaks humorously of the "British Lycra Brotherhood" and how they live and breathe cycling, and how he is hooked and is a proud member. Also, he shows cycling as a way to see "panoramic views" whilst having fun. He presents it as an escape from the "noisy commuters" and "choking traffic" of everyday life, saying that it opens the door to a world of complete tranquillity and "silence". Furthermore, he states that "an overpriced and overcrowded transport system" should be more than enough to inspire the old and the young to take up cycling and now, he says, cycling can be seen as an answer to "rising carbon emissions" which would be appealing to all wanting to save the planet. He ends the article by stating that "Britain is perfect for cycling" and gives this weight with a statistic by saying that all over the country "we are clocking a million journeys... each day" by bike.

A2.

Charles Starmer-Smith shows that cycling is enjoyable by giving anecdotes of his childhood. Here he describes his adventures in France, using words like "adventure" and "freedom" as a way of showing his enthusiasm towards cycling. Charles also shows the cycling community as being a team when he says things like "Lycra Brotherhood" but because of his use of comedy in this term it makes people think that anybody can join in and feel welcomed. Charles also shows that cyclists are the alphas of all commuters by saying things like "A wave of smugness washes over me as I weave easily through the noisy commuters" and that cycling is an answer to "an overpriced and overcrowded

transport system". These show that riding a bike makes you better than everyone else. Charles also uses structure to back up his point by starting with the anecdote that shows you are never too young to start, then quickly moving on to a negative side when he excluded cycling from his lifestyle. This shows that not everybody falls in love with the sport straight away and it comes when you're older. I think that this text is aimed at younger people as it keeps on persuading you to start cycling. It does this when it says, "inspires a new generation of Britons on to their bikes."

A2.

Charles Starmer-Smith shows that cycling is an enjoyable activity by naming famous cyclists. This means if a lot of famous people we have heard of do cycling, then it must be enjoyable and it will encourage the public to do it also. He says, "A string of champions on the track, from Chris Hoy to Victoria Pendleton". This suggests to me that different people find cycling enjoyable and it is a popular, fun activity. The words, "A string of champions" imply that many people have become successful in this enjoyable activity and it's worthwhile. He also shows that cycling is an enjoyable activity by portraying everything he says about cycling in a positive tone. For example, when he says, "revelling in the freedom of pedal power" he tries to make cycling sound like an amazing experience and something that is enjoyable when he uses these ambitious words. The word "freedom" is very over-dramatic about cycling; however, it could suggest his passion towards cycling and how everyone should take it up because it's fun. Using positive words to describe cycling could also link back to my first point because famous cyclists could have the same opinion as Charles Starmer-Smith: that it is really enjoyable. A final way that he shows cycling is an enjoyable activity is by using humour. His wife says, "I want a divorce" due to him wearing a fluorescent biking outfit. It then says he "wheels his bike out into the winter drizzle". This means that after his wife has still said something like that, he is putting biking first and carrying on in the wet, cold weather. This suggests that he puts cycling first and thinks it is very important and good so overall, if he puts cycling even before his wife, then he must think of cycling as an enjoyable activity.

A2.

Charles Starmer-Smith shows that cycling is an enjoyable activity by talking about how beautiful nature looks when you're cycling; in the first paragraph he said that as a child he liked cycling among the French villages, speeding past vineyards, forests and fields. Notice that he uses a range of adjectives to put an image in the reader's head, for example in the sixth paragraph he describes what the countryside looks like when he cycles today: "verdant hills and plunging valleys – and the panoramic views". This shows that it's not just the cycling to enjoy but also the journey it can take you on.

**A4. What do you think and feel about Frances Willard's experiences of learning to ride a bicycle?** [10]

**You should comment on:**

- **what she tells readers about how and why she learned to ride a bicycle;**
- **how she explains the experience of learning to ride.**

A4.

I think Frances is brave to go against her family's advice, that she'd "break her bones". This shows how determined she was to start cycling and get fitter. I think this article also makes me think about all the benefits of cycling and how someone's "love of adventure" could help them to become a healthier person. She tells the reader that cycling is easy and it's quick to learn, as in "just three months I had made myself master". The word "master" makes me feel that anyone could start riding a bike, even a fifty-three year old and become good, as it's within a short time. This would encourage new people to start trying to learn to ride a bike. It also said that she was almost discouraged to start cycling from "people who loved her best" which could give the message that anyone can do what they want if they try hard enough. I think Frances is a person who deserves respect as she went against all the advice that her family gave her and yet was successful.

A4.

I think Willard was very brave to start this form of exercise due to the fact that she didn't have her family's encouragement at first as they thought she would "break her bones" and "spoil her future". However, her daily attempts at learning to ride could be seen as quite inspiring as she shows great resilience. Also her adoration and perhaps reverence for this contraption is quite admirable and when she finally made herself "master" of it I felt almost proud of her achievement. Due to the unlikelihood and unusual nature of women riding bicycles, I think Willard's successful attempt set a new standard and broke the stereotype of women.

A4.

I think that this is an unorthodox experience of learning to ride a bicycle but an enjoyable one nonetheless. Frances Willard was fifty-three which is definitely late for somebody to learn. She says that her age put her "at more of a disadvantage than most" but she does it, which I think is impressive. She also says that this is a "superior form of exercise" and that she was "suffering from a lack of exercise". To her, cycling is cheap and good for exercise. I agree with this because even now, over 100 years later, the bicycle is a cheap form of exercise. She says that "the bicycle meets all conditions to keep healthy" and that it took her "about three months". Towards the end she describes a bicycle as "the most remarkable, ingenious and inspiring machine ever devised" and at this time it was quite revolutionary, so for a woman to learn to ride suggests she was unusual and also determined.

A4.

I think that Frances Willard would not have been a person who was expected to ride a bicycle. This extract is from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, so it would not be expected for a “fifty-three” year old woman to want to cycle. She says she started cycling although she had “a lack of exercise” and problems from an “unnatural style of dress”. This shows that she wasn’t used to getting much exercise so it would have been a big thing for her. The people around her worried that it wasn’t good for her, saying she would “break her bones” or “spoil her future”. Despite their warnings she was “firmly set” on learning to ride. This shows her determination and how she wouldn’t give up the idea of cycling. She says that her “bicycling costume” was “a simple, modest suit”, which makes me feel like although she could do the same thing as men, for example taking up a hobby like bike riding, her attire was still important and she was expected to cover up completely. I think Willard is presented as being very independent and resilient, which I see when she says she took up cycling because “many people thought I could not do it at my age”. This shows her as empowering others and that she does things because she wants to and not just behave as women were expected to, and because she was determined to fulfil her “natural love of adventure”.

A4.

I think that Frances Willard’s experiences of learning to ride a bicycle was different to how it would be today as it was “unusual” for a woman to ride a bicycle and nobody encouraged her, unlike today when most people know how to ride one. Moreover, Willard learnt to ride a bike at fifty-three whereas the majority of people learn as children. Willard only learnt to ride a bike as she was suffering from “lack of exercise” rather than as a hobby. Willard was determined to ride a bike as she “hated walking” and horseback-riding was expensive. The bicycle “met all the conditions to keep healthy”. I feel as though Willard feels proud of herself and accomplished after she learnt to ride because she says “I had made myself master of the most remarkable, ingenious and inspiring machine” and the way she describes it makes it seem so difficult and I think she feels powerful seeing as it was `unusual` and hard to learn to ride a bicycle in the nineteenth century.

**A5. Using information from both texts explain how the clothing and equipment used when cycling has changed over time. [4]**

A5.

Starmer-Smith wears lycra, a helmet and a fluorescent bib. Frances Willard wears a skirt three inches from the ground, a straw hat and a blouse. This shows over time how equipment has improved, both in performance and safety.

A5.

In text one, emphasis is put on 'The British Lycra Brotherhood'. This shows that the correct gear is necessary to be worn when riding, such as a 'jersey', 'fluorescent bib' and a 'helmet' to ensure safety and protection from weather and falling. However, the second extract shows it was not necessary back then to wear specific clothing and anything could be worn. However, it would now often be frowned upon if someone were to wear a long 'skirt' and 'walking shoes' and not a helmet and fluorescent bib.

A5.

Cycling requires specific gear and clothing. In the two extracts it refers to clothing of cyclists now and clothing of cyclists in the late 1800s. In the present day, it is typical for cyclists to wear lycra, to be more 'streamlined'. However, this does cost "a small fortune" because of the advancements in clothing. In the late 1800s, cyclists were clothed much less brightly and wore very normal clothing. This meant "a skirt and a blouse of tweed". No cyclist would wear this now because it wouldn't be suited to the conditions and needs of cycling.

A5.

In the text 'Reinventing the Wheel', Starmer-Smith refers to his wife who tells him that he looks "like a Village People tribute act", in reference to his "helmet and fluorescent bib". This contrasts with the "round straw hat" and "loose cravat" which were considered standard in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Though the 'uniform' has somewhat changed from "a modest suit" to being part of the "British Lycra Brotherhood", the concept of cycling in uniform or costume lives on.

A5.

Willard describes her "bicycling costume" as "simple" and "modest", showing that in the 19<sup>th</sup> century the clothes you were expected to wear couldn't be revealing, even if it was incredibly impractical to wear. She says she wore a "skirt three inches from the ground". This shows that her priority was to appear well-dressed and modest despite the impracticality of it. Starmer-Smith's article shows that his cycling equipment, which he describes as joining the "British Lycra Brotherhood" cost "a small fortune". This shows that his equipment, which includes a fluorescent bib and helmet is more specific and just for cycling, even though his wife thinks he looks ridiculous.



**A6. Both of these texts are about cycling.**

**Compare:**

**(a) how the writers feel about cycling;**

**(b) how they make their views clear to the reader.**

**[10]**

A6.

Both writers show the benefits of cycling and portray it as something everyone should do. Charles Starmer-Smith shows that cycling gives him “freedom” and Frances Willard shows it as “inspiring” and a challenge to be conquered. This shows it has changed both of their lives and how it has many benefits, including keeping healthy. Willard particularly makes this point. One difference between the two is the ages they started cycling. Willard only began cycling at the age of fifty-three and says it took her “about three months” to pick it up, whereas Starmer-Smith talks about his “childhood holidays”, when he found “adventure” and “freedom” through cycling. Willard focuses primarily on the health benefits of riding her bike, whereas he talks about how it makes his life richer as he enjoys the British countryside.

A6.

The writer of `Reinventing the Wheel` portrays cycling in a very positive way and shows that it gives you a freedom that other methods of transport can't give you. He shows this by saying, “I weave easily through the noisy commuters”. The writer of this article gets his views across in quite a humorous way (his wife thinks he looks ridiculous in his lycra gear) but at the same time the article is quite informative, giving information about the cycle network that covers Britain, and he does try to educate the reader about some of the positive impacts that cycling can have, including that “the bicycle is now seen as an answer to rising carbon emissions”.

The writer of `A Wheel within a Wheel` also shows cycling to be a very positive thing by showing it as a target to work towards while you are learning, and also something that gives you freedom and time to escape the stress of daily life. She shows this by writing that it “takes the rider away from the thoughts and cares of his daily work”.

A6.

Both of the writers in these articles feel that cycling is wonderful and that the bicycle is an amazing invention. However, I think Charles thinks of it less of an exercise than Frances does. Frances only really started to cycle because her doctor told her to, even though a lot of her family members were discouraging her. Charles started when he was a child, cycling around France but he stopped when he was a teenager and started again to re-live his childhood memories. Frances wasn't sure about the outfit she should wear as she thought it would look ridiculous on a woman in her 50s. She gets a lot of her views across to the reader by giving quotes from her doctor whereas Charles gets his opinions across by telling us his personal experiences and his use of exaggeration, when he says

“The Alps of Surrey”. Frances now feels the bike is a “remarkable, ingenious and inspiring machine” and Charles has almost always believed the bike is an amazing thing apart from his teenage years because it couldn’t “play Pearl Jam on the stereo”.

A6.

Charles Starmer-Smith does biking for the fun of it; however, Frances Willard does it mainly to stay fit as she grows older, so that she is healthy. I see this as she uses quotes referring to exercise – “One doctor said: As an exercise, bicycling is superior to...other activities”. However, Charles does it for happiness as he says, “For these precious moments I care for little but the verdant hills” so he doesn’t care about keeping healthy or anything like that. Frances gets her point across using lots of personal stories; however, Charles also uses some anecdotes but also mentions famous people to persuade people to bike. He says, “a string of champions from Chris Hoy to Victoria Pendleton”. Frances never mentions famous bikers and only talks about her own successful personal journey to learn how to ride a bike.

A6.

Both of the writers feel positively about cycling and promote it. Frances Willard gets her views across by talking about the health benefits of cycling and telling the reader things such as “the exercise is well and equally distributed over almost the whole body” and saying it is “beneficial to the health of women as well as of men”. She provides a professional opinion ( a doctor’s quote) which backs up her point. Starmer-Smith chooses to get his views across by using anecdotes of his cycling experiences as a child and then by describing in detail the landscape, views and sense of accomplishment your “efforts have earned”. He also gets his views across by giving the negative points of the alternatives to cycling, such as the “overpriced and overcrowded transport system”, saying that with a bike you can “weave easily through the noisy commuters and choking traffic”. This is an example of him naming a problem then giving a solution – by riding a bike which he can “weave easily” whilst the traffic “stalls everyone else’s progress”. Although both writers enjoy cycling, they enjoy it for different reasons and this could be to do with how the times have changed. For example, bikes would not be needed to be “an answer to carbon emissions” in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as people were unaware of the effect of fossil fuels.