

# A-level **ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

Paper 1 Language, the individual and society

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## Insert

**Texts for Section A**

## Text A

**Text A** is an online article from the *Independent*. It was written on the day of the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, in 2018.

Culture > TV & Radio > News
7 comments

## Royal wedding: How ITV, Sky News and BBC covered Meghan Markle and Prince Harry's ceremony

Thanks to a surprisingly lovely morning's TV, you couldn't help getting carried away

**Christine Manby** | Saturday 19 May 2018 14:30 | |

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The Independent Culture



There can be no greater televisual challenge than covering a royal wedding, where the logistics of a live outside broadcast meet layers of protocol. With just six months to plan for Harry and Meghan, which channel managed best?

Let's start with the sets. The BBC chose a medley of blues seemingly based on the home colours of the Indian football team. There were sofas from IKEA and occasional tables straight from your nan's house. If the BBC was trying to show licence payers they're not squandering on aesthetics, they succeeded.

ITV fared slightly better with handmade cushions in juxtaposition with a Noguchi coffee table, no less. But Sky News won hands down with a full-on red, white and blue theme complete with abstract Union Flag carpet.

The BBC coverage started well with a moving poem by George The Poet. Then we got to the presenters. Dermot O'Leary's shirt looked horribly tight around the neck. Perhaps that's why he spent the whole morning squirming, prompting @Crawfordbyname to tweet 'Dermot O'Leary do you have piles...'

Meanwhile, Kirsty Young seemed to have dressed for another event entirely in a dark green frock best described as dour. Still, it picked up the green in the kilt worn by an early BBC guest who, legs akimbo, threatened to show viewers he was a true Scot before most of us had the Prosecco out.

ITV had its own insider in the shape of Tom Bradby, who got an actual invitation to the ceremony, which was great because it meant he couldn't commentate.

Instead, ITV's coverage was fronted by Philip Schofield and Julie Etchingham, who must surely be a contender for the People's Presenter. (Unlike Holly Willoughby, who tried to pull focus from the lovely Julie by announcing that she would be wearing her own wedding dress to watch the footage. Bad, Holly.)

Sky News presented a formidable tag team in Anna Botting and Kay Burley. Botting was dressed for the possibility of a sudden banking crisis in Angela Merkel chic, while Burley wore white lace, like a mother-of-the-bride determined to remind the congregation she was once beautiful too.

All in all, the television coverage of the royal wedding was exactly as you would expect it to be: inane and sycophantic. But at the same time, it was occasionally touching, a feeling summed up in the sight of Julie Etchingham jumping up to see Meghan's car and spontaneously waving as the bride passed by.

It was a beautiful moment in a surprisingly lovely morning's TV. Just like Julie, you couldn't help getting carried away.

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**Text B**

**Text B** is taken from Queen Victoria's journal, which was originally handwritten. She wrote the entry on the day of her marriage to Prince Albert, in 1840. Victoria (1819–1901) was Queen of Great Britain and Ireland from 1837 until her death.

I never saw such crowds as there were in the Park, & they cheered most enthusiastically. When I arrived at St. James's Palace, I went into the Dressing room arranged for me, where my 12 young Train Bearers were waiting, dressed all in white with wreaths of white roses in their hair which had a very pretty effect.

I waited a little while till Albert's Procession had moved into the Chapel. I then went with my Train Bearers & Ladies into the Throne Room where my Procession reformed, Lord Melbourne, in his fine new Dress Coat, bearing the Sword of State, with Lord Uxbridge & Lord Belfast, on either side of him, walking immediately before me. Queen Anne's Room was full of people, ranged on seats, one above the other, as also the Guard Room & all along the staircase, – all very friendly.

The Procession looked beautiful going downstairs, & along part of the Colour Court, which was all covered in, & full of people, who were most cordial. The flourish of Trumpets ceased, as I entered the Chapel, when the organ began to play. At the altar on my right, stood my beloved Albert, Mama being on my left, as also Uncles Sussex & Cambridge & Aunt Augusta; on Albert's right stood the Queen Dowager, then, Uncle Ernest, Ernest, Aunt Cambridge, with little Mary, George & Augusta & Princess Sophia Matilda. Lord Melbourne with the Sword of State, stood close to me. The Ceremony was very impressive & fine, yet simple, & I think ought to make an imperishable impression on everyone who promises at the altar to keep the vows he or she have made. Albert repeated everything very distinctly. I felt so happy when he placed the ring on my finger. As soon as the Service was over, the Procession returned as it came, with the exception that dearest Albert led me out!

**END OF TEXTS**

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