

There was the old woman who lay in her hut, abandoned by relations who were too weak to carry her on their journey to find food. It was the smell that drew me to her doorway: the smell of decaying flesh. Where her shinbone should have been there was a festering wound the size of my hand. She'd been shot in the leg as the retreating army of the deposed dictator took revenge on whoever it found in its way. The shattered leg had fused into the gentle V-shape of a boomerang. It was rotting; she was rotting. You could see it in her sick, yellow eyes and smell it in the putrid air she recycled with every struggling breath she took.

ACTIVITY 9

A03

SKILLS

CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS,
INTERPRETATION, DECISION MAKING

COMPARING TEXTS

This is the type of question you will have to answer when tackling Question 5 of Section A. It carries roughly half the marks for the section in the exam (22 marks out of 45).

- 1 Compare how the writers of these two travel pieces present their ideas and perspectives on their experiences. Support your answer with detailed examples from both texts including **brief** quotations. (22 marks)

Read the information in the box in the margin, then copy and complete the table to help you plan your answer.

▼ METHOD/ TECHNIQUE	▼ MONGOLIA	▼ SOMALIA	▼ COMPARISON
Type of detail or incident	Strange, odd or comical Example:	Distressing Example:	They are describing very different types of...
Communication of thoughts and attitudes	In describing the strange customs, his tone is... Example:	By focusing on the sad fates of individuals, he... Example:	
Language			

HINT

What particular effects do different writers use to interest the reader? For example, the use of emotive description in *A Passage to Africa* and the use of dramatic words and comic situations in *In the Empire of Genghis Khan*.

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ARTICLES

Reading newspapers or magazines regularly will not only improve your reading and writing skills; it will also steadily increase your general knowledge and understanding of current affairs. Many newspapers and magazines now exist in online versions, which makes them much easier to access.

Articles come in various types and lengths. They can be about anything of general current interest, from politics and economics to shopping and education. Articles may or may not express strong views or come to definite conclusions about the topic, but they usually inform you of developments, make you aware of things of interest and warn you of dangers. The following articles do express opinions meaning that they are known as 'opinion pieces'. In opinion pieces, it is particularly important that the views are well argued and backed up by evidence.