

Just two days later conditions began to worsen again. Doing anything was not only difficult but painful. My hands were red-raw and swollen, and my head was aching – even more so when the freezing water washed breathtakingly over it each time I went forward to change sails. Shifting the sails was hard, brutal work. Whenever it was time to change one I would pull it forward, clipping myself on and hanging on for dear life. Waves would continuously power down the side-decks, often washing me and the sail back a couple of metres, and I had to hang on and tighten my grip on the sail tie even further. I would often cry out loud as I dragged the sail along; it was one way of letting out some of that frustration and of finding the strength to do it...

After a week things finally began to calm, and with my legs red-hot and sore, and my wrists and fingers swollen, I finally enjoyed the first opportunity to remove my survival suit. Though the relief was wonderful, the smell was not!

**KEY POINT**

Read the exam questions carefully. Tailor your answer to the number of marks available and make sure you follow the key instructions.

**HINT**

You will need to analyse the techniques used by the writer in order to meet Assessment Objective 2. Think about:

- the story or narrative and what actually happened
- use of precise detail
- frequent use of personal pronouns
- first person perspective maintained throughout
- use of emotive language
- use of descriptive language.

**ACTIVITY 2****A02****SKILLS****CRITICAL THINKING, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION****▼ PREPARING FOR THE EXAM QUESTIONS**

Questions 1, 2 and 3 in the exam require short answers, each of which is usually worth between 2 and 5 marks. The number of marks on offer will give you a good idea about how many points you should make and how much you should write.

Some questions will say that you should answer 'in your own words'. Copying phrases and sentences straight from the text is not a good idea, unless the question specifically says that it is acceptable to do so.

- 1. In your own words, explain clearly the injury Ellen MacArthur suffered at the start of the passage. (2 marks)**

In answering this question, you could begin: *Ellen was thrown by the storm against ....*

- 2. Look again at the last paragraph (paragraph 4). In your own words, say what impressions you get of Ellen MacArthur's feelings at the end of the passage and why she felt like this. (3 marks)**

Choose two or three of the techniques in the 'Hint' box, then find an example or two of each technique and describe what you think the effects are.