

Component 1 Section A

Response 2

Text A and B, although are both of the same genre of commentaries, have contrasting purposes. Text A has a purpose of providing an informative and descriptive yet entertaining commentary of the slalom snowboarding event. Whereas, text B has the purpose of providing a formal and informative commentary of the Queen's Birthday Parade. Due to the difference in purpose and formality of events, it would be expected that Text A contains more high frequency, monosyllabic lexis and more frequent use of false starts and pauses and Text B contains more low frequency, polysyllabic lexis including standard English.

One similarity that both of the texts share is the frequent use of deixis. This is due to their shared genre (commentary) and are relaying on the listener to be able to pair the commentary with a visual image. An example in Text A is 'every time she does that'. An example of deictics shown in Text B is 'the thousand (.) who attend this event...'. In both examples, we are required a visual image to know exactly what the demonstrative determiner of 'this' and the demonstrative pronoun 'that' refer to.

The texts both differ, however, in tone. Text A being more exciting and Text B being more informative. Due to the entertainment purpose of Text A, a more enthusiastic tone is used with a frequent use of intensifiers ('really pushed' 'so badly'). It contains a semantic field of positive, attributive adjectives such as 'beautiful style', 'brand new event' and 'brilliant racing'. This gives the speech a more positive and enticing feel for the members of the audience which are appealed by such language. However, Text B gives a more primarily informative tone with the frequent use of proper nouns. ('Liam Fox, the Defence Secretary', 'First Battalion'). This gives a sense of knowledge on the event and details of the event, giving a more professional and well structured commentary.

Although both Text A and Text B contain frequent pauses, they occur very differently in both commentaries. In Text A, unvoiced pauses are very frequent and take place mid-sentence ('so (.) now (.) small final (1) Run Two (1) Amelie Kober (.) going (.) for the bronze medal). The fact that the pauses occur mid sentence suggests that the commentary is unscripted and un-rehearsed and so pauses are more likely to happen as a natural occurrence. However, the unvoiced pauses in Text B seem to be less frequently occurring mid-sentence. ('Prince William the Duke of Cambridge h e'll be emerging form Buckingham Palace in a short while (1) his wife Catherine will be watching the parade...'). The less frequent occurrence of unvoiced pauses may be due to the rehearsal of a script or research of the event. Text B is more structured in this way as the events are more predictable than those which could occur in the events being commentated in Text A.

There is more of a variation in prosodic features in Text A than Text B due to the entertainment purpose of Text A. It is clearly represented many times in Text A that there is rising intonation (debuting (.) in Sochi, 'Does that make sense Tim Warwood?') There were also frequent instance of a rise in volume ('COME ON', 'NECK AND NECK'). These prosodic features were used frequently as a way of enticing and exciting the listeners to accompany the assumed 'thrill -seeking' audience's choice of watching an extreme sport. Text B, however, shows little rising intonation and only uses the prosodic feature of emphatic stress mainly on abstract nouns ('tribute', 'pride'), adverbials ('every year', 'already') and subject specific nouns ('Escort', 'Colour'). This use of emphatic stress serves less as an entertainment purpose but more to highlight certain features.

There is a difference in phonetics also, in Text A and B. I found that text A used phonetics specifically to engage and excite the audience. For example, Leigh introduces the segment by saying 'hell:::o'. This prolonged speech sound immediately greets the audience in a 'chirpy' and somewhat informal manner, which may appeal to the sports-loving audiences watching. They also use the prolonging of speech in the example 'distrau:::ght' to act as an emphasis on the events and to highlight the failure of Amelia Kober's attempt at achieving a Bronze Medal. Text B, however, contains no outstanding phonological features. This is due to the fact that it serves no entertainment purpose and focuses on mainly an informative purpose. They leave out any prolonged speech in order to prevent taking away from the focus on the event, and to keep the tenor formal.