

Modified Enlarged 36pt
OXFORD CAMBRIDGE AND RSA EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 4 June 2019 – Morning

GCSE (9–1) English Language

**J351/01 Communicating information and
ideas**

Reading Insert

**Time allowed: 2 hours
plus your additional time allowance**

**YOU MUST HAVE:
the Question Paper**

READ INSTRUCTIONS OVERLEAF



INSTRUCTIONS

The materials in this Reading Insert are for use with the questions in Section A of the Question Paper.

DETAILS OF TEXT EXTRACTS:

TEXT 1

Text: adapted from ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade’

Author: William Howard Russell (1854)

TEXT 2

Text: adapted from ‘Let Us Make a Vow to the Dead’

Author: Ronald Reagan (1984)

TEXT 1

William Howard Russell was sent by ‘The Times’ newspaper to report on the Crimean War from the frontline. This is an extract from his account of the Charge of the Light Brigade when a small number of cavalymen rode their horses into attack against Russian gun batteries even though they knew most of them would be killed.

**At ten past eleven our Light Cavalry brigade rushed to the front. The whole brigade scarcely made one effective regiment. They swept proudly past,
5 glittering in the morning sun in all the pride and splendour of war. We could hardly believe the evidence of our senses! Surely that handful of men were not going to charge an army in
10 position? Alas! It was but too true – their desperate valour knew no bounds, and far indeed was it removed from its better part – discretion.**

**They advanced in two lines, quickening
15 their pace as they closed towards the enemy. A more fearful spectacle was**

never witnessed than by those who,
without the power to aid, beheld their
heroic countrymen rushing into the
20 arms of death.

At the distance of 1200 yards the whole
line of the enemy gun batteries belched
forth, from thirty iron mouths, a flood
of smoke and flame, through which
25 hissed the deadly cannon balls. The
flight of the cannonballs was marked
by instant gaps in our ranks, by dead
men and horses, and by horses flying
wounded or riderless across the plain.
30 The brigade, however, never halted or
slacked its speed for an instant.

With its diminished ranks thinned by
those thirty guns, which the Russians
had laid with most deadly accuracy,
35 with a halo of flashing steel above
their heads, and with a cheer which
was many a noble fellow's death cry,
the brigade flew into the smoke of
the guns; but, before they were lost
40 from view, the plain was strewn with
their bodies and with the carcasses of
horses. They were exposed to fire from

the gun batteries on both hills, as well as to direct fire of rifles.

- 45 Through the clouds of smoke we could see their sabres flashing as they rode up to the guns and dashed between them, cutting down the gunners as they stood. The blaze of their steel, as
50 an officer standing near me said, was 'like the turn of a shoal of mackerel'. We saw them riding through the guns, as I have said; to our delight, we saw them returning, after breaking through
55 a column of Russian infantry, and scattering them like chaff – but then the flank fire from a gun battery on the hill swept them down, scattered and broken as they were.
- 60 Wounded men and dismounted cavalrymen flying towards us told the sad tale – demigods could not have done what they had failed to do. It was as much as our Heavy Cavalry
65 Brigade could do to cover the retreat of the miserable remnant of that band of heroes as they returned to that place they had so lately quitted in all the

**70 pride of life. At twenty-five to twelve not
a British soldier, except the dead and
dying, was left in front of those bloody
Russian guns.**

TEXT 2

The invasion of Normandy was an important turning point in the Second World War. In 1984, on the 40th anniversary of the invasion, Ronald Reagan, the US President at the time, went to Normandy and made this speech to the men who had survived that battle.

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