GCSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(8700)

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Insert

The two Sources that follow are:

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

A blog post called *Put Systems in Place to Run the Home* by Anthea Turner

Source B: 19th Century non-fiction

An extract from Chapter One of Mrs. Beeton's book of Household Management

Please turn the page over
to see the Source

Source A - 21st Century non-fiction

Anthea Turner presented a TV programme called ‘Perfect Housewife’ in 2014. This extract is from her blog published on August 29, 2014.

Put Systems in Place to Run the Home

A friend of mine called Rev Stephen Chalk once said to me, “Discipline gives you freedom”. I don’t have time in my life to run round in circles and be a slave to my home so this is why I look for ways to make life easy.

Time saving systems for the home will help a busy household run more efficiently. And most take no time at all to implement…..

- I don’t believe a busy household can run their lives efficiently from a calendar in the kitchen. Make sure you arm yourself with a large desk diary which is never removed from the house.

- Everyone puts in so that nothing is missed out… birthdays, parties, school events, dental appointments, work commitments, refuse days (no one in my house can use the excuses they didn’t know when the bins were to go out!). What you are doing here is eliminating error, conflict and confusion.

- If you have room get 3 washing baskets – I use White, Grey and Black. Everyone knows whites in white, coloureds in grey and darks in black. Any child over the age of 6 can work this one out!

- Set yourself up an area which is your office. There are so many small filing cabinets, funky file boxes etc. that will make bill paying and bank statement storing a much more efficient task.

- Think logically about how and where you store things. For example, I wear glasses so where I store my spare pairs and sunglasses I also have cleaning wipes and my screwdriver that tightens the arms. It truly is little tweaks like this which in the long run will save you time. And my God there are never enough hours in the day!

One lady I worked with on ‘Perfect Housewife’ had such a stressful start to the day, due only to inefficiency, that if I was her I’d be in a darkened room with a gin and tonic by 11.00am! She had three children and not a day went by when someone wasn’t late for school or had forgotten a piece of kit. There was general screaming and shouting from everyone and it was just awful. Not wanting to see her resort to the G&T by midmorning, I put a system in place to make life easy…

First I gave her 3 large baskets which lived in the hallway. No child could go to bed until they had put their satchel, completed homework, sports kit, musical instrument etc. in it for the following morning. Coats and scarves hung on a peg in the hall and uniforms were in the bedroom complete with clean pants socks and shirt. In the kitchen, cereal bowls etc. were out and ready for breakfast.

When we tested this new regime out it was bliss – a calm, orderly, happy start to the day. No arguments and no stress. Bliss!
I know you will have ideas and tips of your own so please let us have them.

Turn over for Source B

Source B – 19th Century non-fiction

Mrs Beeton’s Book of Household Management

Isabella Beeton was a journalist, author and writer. In 1861, she published a bestselling book instructing housewives how to manage their homes and cook wholesome meals. This abridged extract is from Chapter One.

AS WITH THE COMMANDER OF AN ARMY, or the leader of any enterprise, so is it with the mistress of a house. Her spirit will be seen through the whole establishment; and just in proportion as she performs her duties intelligently and thoroughly, so will her domestics follow in her path. Of all those acquirements, which more particularly belong to the feminine character, there are none which take a higher rank, in our estimation, than such as enter into a knowledge of household duties; for on these are perpetually dependent the happiness, comfort, and well-being of a family. In this opinion we are borne out by the author of "The Vicar of Wakefield," who says: "The modest virgin, the prudent wife, and the careful matron, are much more serviceable in life than petticoated philosophers, blustering heroines, or virago queens. She who makes her husband and her children happy, who reclaims the one from vice and trains up the other to virtue, is a much greater character than ladies described in romances, whose whole occupation is to murder mankind with shafts from their quiver, or their eyes."

EARLY RISING IS ONE OF THE MOST ESSENTIAL QUALITIES which enter into good Household Management, as it is not only the parent of health, but of innumerable other advantages. Indeed, when a mistress is an early riser, it is almost certain that her house will be orderly and well-managed. On the contrary, if she remain in bed till a late hour, then the domestics, who, as we have before observed, invariably partake somewhat of their mistress's character, will surely become sluggards. To self-indulgence all are more or less disposed, and it is not to be expected that servants are freer from this fault than the heads of houses.

THE CHOICE OF ACQUAINTANCES is very important to the happiness of a mistress and her family. A gossiping acquaintance, who indulges in the scandal and ridicule of her neighbours, should be avoided as a pestilence. If the duties of a family do not sufficiently occupy the time of a mistress, society should be formed of such a kind as will tend to the mutual interchange of general and interesting information.

FRIENDSHIPS SHOULD NOT BE HASTILY FORMED, nor the heart given, at once, to every new-comer. There are ladies who uniformly smile at, and approve everything and everybody, and who possess neither the courage to reprehend vice, nor the generous warmth to defend virtue. The friendship of such persons is without attachment, and their love without affection or even preference. They imagine that every one who has any penetration is ill-natured, and look coldly on a discriminating judgment. It should be remembered, however, that this discernment does not always proceed from an uncharitable temper, but that those who possess a long experience and thorough knowledge of the world, scrutinize the conduct and dispositions of people before they trust themselves to the first fair appearances.

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