

Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Time 1 hour 45 minutes

**Paper
reference**

WEN01/01

English Language

International Advanced Subsidiary

UNIT 1: Language: Context and Identity

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Text A

Text A is an edited extract from an article published in the online version of the *Financial Times Magazine: Life & Arts* in May 2019. The article explores the issue of racism in football and refers to the experiences of Jamaica born England international footballer, Raheem Sterling.

FT Magazine: Life & Arts

Raheem Sterling: the England football star who took on the racists

Henry Mance

MAY 30, 2019

Sterling was born in Jamaica. When he was two, his father was shot dead. Soon afterwards, his mother Nadine moved to the UK to study; he and his sister joined her a few years later.

Sterling found football was “the one thing I could do that made me happy. I put everything in that — all my energy, all my anger, all my happiness. I didn’t want to hear anything else.” There was no plan B.

Living next door to Wembley Stadium allowed him to dream big. “A massive part of it for me was actually being able to see the stadium, and having that as a reference,” says Sterling. He now has a tattoo of himself looking up at the Wembley arches.

The area was a melting pot. “Being in London, in a multicultural city, in a multicultural school — everyone was kind of understanding of each other’s beliefs, each other’s faiths, colours,” he says. “My best friend was from India... I had friends from Somalia. You tend to learn about their culture, you understand them as individuals.”

The young Sterling was a Manchester United fan; he has gone on to represent their two biggest rivals — City and, before that, Liverpool. And it was in Liverpool that he first experienced racism. In one incident, he was recognised and headbutted on the way home from school. “There’s never a time in my life in England I’ve received racism outside of football. It’s just purely to do with football,” he says.

His experience of abuse intensified when he moved to Manchester City, aged 20.

Newspapers looked at his background — a boy whose father had been shot; who was a teenage dad (to a daughter, Melody); who had demanded a lucrative transfer. They formed a view, and dripped it into the public consciousness.

Soon after, at the 2016 European championship, Sterling was booed by England’s own fans. “That was a massive one for me,” he says. “There were times that I felt like, that I should say something, but I didn’t feel it was the right time... I tried to put my head down.”

In late 2017, Sterling was racially abused and physically attacked outside the City training ground.

Before the 2018 World Cup, he was accused of glorifying gun violence, by having a gun tattoo on his right leg. He argued the image had a “deeper meaning” because of his father’s death.

Last December, Sterling decided to speak out. A Chelsea fan was caught on camera appearing to shout a racist insult at Sterling during City’s defeat away at Stamford Bridge.

<http://britishstudentroom.wordpress.com/>

Making his point on Instagram in December last year, Sterling called out newspaper coverage of young black footballers arguing that it 'helps fuel racism'.

Sterling wrote on Instagram: "For all the newspapers that don't understand why people are racist in this day and age all I have to say is have a second thought about fair publicity and give all players an equal chance." His post received 650,000 likes.

Did he ever worry that people wouldn't listen? Sterling hesitates, puzzled. "I actually didn't even think if people were going to listen. It was kind of — I've had enough of this, I've seen a pattern over many years that was happening. This is the time."

Playing for England against Montenegro in March, Sterling was subjected to monkey [racist] chants by opposition fans; after scoring England's fifth goal, he held his ears to silence them. Montenegro were fined just €20,000. "I don't feel these fines that are given out are really acceptable for discriminating against people's skin colour... I don't think people take it as seriously [as other insults]".

Perhaps the fundamental issue is representation. Britain now has bi-racial members of the royal family ("a massive statement", says Sterling). But it has never had a black prime minister and has had only three black cabinet ministers. The England football team have never had a black, Asian or minority ethnic manager; today, no Premier League club has a black British manager or a black majority shareholder. The pitches are replete with exceptional black men but the offices are not.

Discrimination can be subtle. Even abuse can be hard to identify.

Raheem Sterling has called for clubs to lose nine points if their fans commit racist abuse. Others have suggested a suitable response would be for clubs to have to play a match "behind closed doors" ie without fans present.

What do you think would be the most effective policy? Share your thoughts below.

Glossary

Wembley Stadium: the national stadium of English Football

Text B

Text B is an edited extract from a speech delivered to the United Nations on the 'International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination' by Ghanaian international footballer, Kevin-Prince Boateng. The speech was published in the online version of the *Daily Mail*, a British newspaper, in 2013.

<http://britishstudentroom.wordpress.com/>

Madame Pillay, High Commissioner for Human Rights, esteemed colleagues and experts, ladies and gentlemen.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are in the year 2013 and racism is still amongst us and is still a problem.

It's not simply an argument for the History Channel or something that belongs to the past or something that only happens in other countries.

Racism is real, it exists here and now. You can find it on the streets, in your office and in football stadiums.

There have been moments in my life when I didn't wish to face the problem. I tried to ignore it as if it was a headache that would sooner or later go away. I just had to wait.

That, however, is an illusion. It won't go away by itself. We have a duty to face racism and to fight it.

The concept "a bit racist" doesn't exist. There are no tolerable quantities of racism. It's unacceptable regardless of where it happens or the form that it takes.

It's also something that goes beyond black and white. There are many different types of racism from people of different colours and nationalities.

There is no vaccine to fight this and no antibiotics to take. It's a dangerous and infectious virus which is strengthened by indifference and inaction.

When I played for Ghana, I learned how to fight malaria. Simple vaccines are not enough. You also have to dry out infected areas where the carriers proliferate. I think that racism and malaria have a lot in common.

Stadiums can be places where people of different colour come to support their teams or they can be seen as stagnant areas where healthy people will be infected by racism. We can't allow this to happen before our very eyes.

Football stadiums, like other places, are full of young people. If we don't fight the stagnation, many of those who are healthy today, could become infected with one of the most dangerous diseases of our time.

Those of us constantly in the public eye have more responsibility. We can't allow ourselves to be indifferent or passive.

Many sportsmen like myself and my team-mates, artists and musicians all have unique chances and responsibilities to make themselves heard. We have the possibility to reach the parts that political speeches will never reach.

History shows us how important the contributions of famous athletes can be. I can say that the fact that the President of America [Barack Obama] shares my skin colour, has something to do not only with Martin Luther King, but also Muhammad Ali.

One of the most intense and moving moments of my life to date was when I met Nelson Mandela during the World Cup in South Africa in 2010. An incredible man, both in subtlety of mind and character.

His life has shown that making your voice heard against racism is less dangerous than remaining mute.

It's just as important to stand up to racism today as it was in the past. We have to find inspiration from those who have risked their lives for the cause.

I'm convinced that it would be a fatal error to believe that we can fight racism by ignoring it and hoping that it'll go away like a headache. This won't happen.

In any moment when our paths cross with racism we have the duty to rise and to act.

Thank you for listening.

Glossary

Barack Obama: The first black President of the USA who held office 2009–2017

Martin Luther King: a leader of the Civil Rights Movement in the USA from 1955 until his assassination in 1968

Muhammad Ali: an American professional boxer (1960–1981) and political activist

Nelson Mandela: former president of South Africa, in office 1994–1999

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Sources taken/adapted from:

Text A: Raheem Sterling: the England football star who took on the racists By Henry Mance © Financial Times, MAY 30 2019

Text B: Racism is a dangerous and infectious virus, strengthened by indifference and inaction... Boateng makes impassioned speech to UN By JOHN DRAYTON © Mail Online, 21 March 2013