**English Language Paper 2 Practice Pack #3**

This is an extract from a Victorian magazine article of the 1850s. The writer describes his experiences of visiting a new ‘kinder garten’ or school for very young children.

**Source A**

THE KINDER GARDEN.

ON the door of a respectable-looking mansion in London, we noticed the following inscription :-

KINDER GARTEN  
OR  
INFANT TRAINING SCHOOL

    On first looking upon this notice, we were about as wise as the poor fellow who had paused from sweeping the street, and was trying to spell it out; but, unlike him, we did not give it up in despair: for, having a kind invitation to enter, we did so, and became acquainted with what was in our estimation a very interesting method of infant training.  
    If ever the reader has nursed a fine spirited two-year old baby, he will have found out how necessary it is to find something for it to do.

    The first thing that occurred to us on entering the school was, that toys were substituted for books, and that instead of having finished materials, such as dolls and animals, the most simple and inexpensive things were used, and that the children made their own lessons. It is, in a word, play organised into a system of labour for the child, so that, whilst he is amused and delighted, every faculty of body and mind is properly educed.   
    The first thing shown to us was a number of balls, of all the colours of the rainbow. This, which is called the first gift, is intended for very young children, and belongs to the nursery rather than the school. It teaches motion and colour. The ball is used also in the movement games and gymnastic exercises.  
    The second gift consists of a ball-cube cylinder, stick, and string. The games of this gift are so simple, that the weakest child can find delight in them, so instructive that they afford information to the man of science, and so diversified that they afford endless amusement to the children.   
    With the third gift, which is a cube divided in every direction, so as to form eight small cubes, the child begins to build or construct. It is impossible for us to do justice to those little architects in words.

Having seen all the "gifts" we were next shown the stickwork, which consists in laying little pieces of  stick - undipped lucifer matches - in certain forms, commencing with two and rising to an indefinite number ; it is surprising how many curious and beautiful things are made. One great object, however, is to teach reading by it. The following letters are formed by plain sticks :  
AEFHIKLMNTVWXYZ.  
The whole of the letters cannot be made without uniting the sticks, and this is accomplished by sharpening the points and fixing them in pease. Pease and stick work, however, are not confined to the formation of letters, but the most strange and beautiful things are made by this simple contrivance, in an almost infinite variety.   
    Every one knows how fond children are of cutting with scissors. One of our little ones very often exercises this talent upon her clothes. Frobel, however, taking advantage of this propensity, has turned it to use, and makes paper-cutting a very interesting branch of education. The child is taught to fold the paper in certain mathematical forms, and then to cut into it in a vertical direction, when it discovers that a variety of the most beautiful forms and patterns are the result. This is what it is always striving after in all its rude efforts at clipping, and no one can tell who has not seen it how the little fellow rejoices when he has discovered that secret.  
       All who have been accustomed to be with children, must have observed how anxious they always are to *do* something. Their destruction is generally with a view to reconstruct something which shall give expression to their thoughts. The toys of the Kinder Garden are all made with a view to meet this desire. A few simple pieces of wood and paper, a little clay, a few sticks and pease, are sufficient to give permanent occupation, and to lay the basis of a thorough education.   
    Not the least pleasing feature of the Kinder Garden is to watch the earnestness and delight with which the children enter into their occupations ; there is no apathy or listlessness here:  every one is doing something ; and instead of being anxious to leave school, his regret is that it is over so soon. There is no weariness, scolding, nor punishment, but the whole are intelligent and happy.

The Leisure Hour, 1855

Source: <http://www.victorianlondon.org/education/kindergarden.htm>

**Source B**

This is an extract from a website article published in 2016. In the extract the writer explores the impact of changes to the way American kindergartens are now run on young children.

This article cannot be reproduced due to copyright but can be found in full here:

Source: https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2016/01/the-new-preschool-is-crushing-kids/419139/