

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: PAPER 1

Total time: 1 hour 45 minutes. One source (fiction). **Read the source carefully, starting with the box at the top, before you start.**

Q1	4 marks max 5 mins	<p>List four things about...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on the right lines. List five clear, straightforward things (you can copy from the text!) Make sure you're on topic and make sense. 	<p>The sentences below are just a guide of how you might start your answer. Follow the specific instructions that your teacher has given and make sure you show the key skills!</p>
Q2	8 marks up to 15 mins 1-2 pages	<p>How does the writer use language to...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pick 2-3 juicy quotes from the right lines (metaphorical is best!) Annotate a key word/image from each quote with as many precise meanings as possible Use subject terminology when writing about each feature (e.g. metaphor, verb, word) Explain the precise meanings of each word when writing your answer, then link this to what it shows about the topic of the question (its effects). 	<p>The writer describes _____ as '[quote]'. The use of the [subject term, e.g. word] '...' evokes thoughts/the idea/an image of [precise meanings]. Therefore, this suggests [effects about topic].</p>
Q3	8 marks up to 15 mins 1.5 - 2 pages	<p>How does the writer use structure to interest the reader?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annotate the beginning of the text: who/what is introduced? What details do you learn and why are they important? Look for any important shifts in the source. What changes and when? What's the effect on the reader? Why? Write about the beginning and at least one shift. Try to cover the full source. 	<p>At the beginning, the writer focuses on... . We learn that... . Therefore, we think/feel... because... Later, there is a shift in _____ when... This makes the reader think/feel/question... because...</p>
Q4	20 marks up to 25 mins 2-4 pages	<p>Statement + To what extent do you agree? (Critical evaluation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the statement carefully. Think about both parts. Use the bullet points to guide you. Read the source very carefully. Pick out a range of quotations that link to the statement. Look for any key words and any other methods you could analyse. Annotate them. Use the writer's name throughout your answer. How do they make you think what you do? Your response must be detailed, ideally explore both sides of the statement, and include detailed analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic: I agree/disagree that ____ because... Better: Give your own thoughts! <p>The writer describes _____ as '[quote]'. The use of the [subject term, e.g. word] evokes thoughts/the idea/an image of [precise meanings]. Therefore, this suggests [effects linked to statement]. Also, / However, ... because... + More analysis</p>
Q5	40 marks 40 mins Planning page + 2-3 pages of writing	<p>Choose one of two creative writing tasks. Each is either description or story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Think of an original idea and plan your structure (e.g. Drop Shift Zoom Link). Flashbacks, cyclical structure and other structural features (e.g. motifs) impress examiners. Don't cover loads of characters or a long time period – you only have 40 minutes! Remember show, don't tell. Always use your descriptive skills to show the reader what they need to feel/understand – never just tell them! Describe things in detail. Think about colour, senses, zooming in, etc. DON'T RUSH. Edit and improve your writing as you go along and when checking at the end. DO NOT RUSH your writing. Make sure it is thoughtful, interesting and accurate. Make sure you include all the skills needed to earn marks → 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sentences: use a range of types and starters. Use a short sentence for effect. Paragraphs: use them! Include a powerful one-sentence/short paragraph for effect. Punctuation: accurate and varied. ? ... ; : – [Semicolons (;) join two sentences.] Techniques: e.g. simile, metaphor, rhetorical question. Be original. Vocabulary: always use the most impressive words you can think of.

• **NEVER FINISH EARLY.** You should be able to keep improving your Q5 (creative writing) until the time is up. Upgrade your vocabulary, metaphors, punctuation, etc. Crossing out is a good thing!
 • Remember that **75% of your marks are for Q4 and Q5.** Always write something for Q1-3, but a detailed Q4 and Q5 are the main deciders of your grade. Spend time on them and check carefully.