

WRITING PROSE

Example question and how to get top marks

You are going to enter a creative writing competition. Your entry will be judged by a panel of people of your own age.

Either:
Write a description suggested by this picture:

Or:
Write the opening part of a story about a place that is severely affected by the weather.

24 marks for content and organization

16 marks for technical accuracy (Total 40 marks = 25% of GCSE)

Content	<input type="checkbox"/> Register is convincing and compelling for audience <input type="checkbox"/> Assuredly matched to purpose <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive and ambitious vocabulary with sustained crafting of linguistic devices
Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Varied and inventive use of structural features <input type="checkbox"/> Writing is compelling, incorporating a range of convincing and complex ideas <input type="checkbox"/> Fluently linked paragraphs with seamlessly integrated discourse markers
Technical accuracy	<input type="checkbox"/> Wide range of punctuation is used with a high level of accuracy <input type="checkbox"/> Uses a full range of appropriate sentence forms for effect <input type="checkbox"/> Uses Standard English consistently and appropriately with secure control of complex grammatical structures <input type="checkbox"/> High level of accuracy in spelling, including ambitious vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive and ambitious use of vocabulary

The Exam

45 minutes – 1 task – A choice of 2 tasks (1 descriptive or 1 narrative.... but could be 2xnarrative or 2xdescriptive.)

Step one: read & highlight key words in question (including PAT/PAF/PAL)

Step two: Study the stimulus (picture) then choose one of the two questions

Step three: Plan 6-8 things you can include, then put them in order (Steps 1 to 3 = 10 mins)

Step four: Write it' (Step 4 = 30 mins)

- should be lots of 'crafting'
- Should be 1 ½ sides approx

Step five (MOST IMPORTANT!): check (Step 5 = 5 minutes)

What to expect...

As a stimulus for students' writing, there will be a choice of scenario, written prompt or visual image that is related to the topic of the reading text in section A. The scenario sets out a context for writing with a designated audience, purpose and form that will differ to those specified on Paper 2.

Assessment Objectives

AO5 Content and Organisation

Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.

AO6 Technical Accuracy

Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

The basics

Capital letters

Full stops

Question marks

Commas

Apostrophes

Consistent tense

Paragraphs

Homophone spellings

Connectives

Semi-colons

Colons

Vary sentence starts/lengths

Vary paragraph lengths

Topic sentences

Stretch yourself

For planning – mind map rather than spider diagram.

Learn some impressive vocab.

Break the rules!!!

Reveal slowly/quickly

Dialogue

Parenthesis

Ascending / descending tri-colon

Syndetic/asyndetic listing

Cohesion (topic sentence, pronouns, chains, prepositions, fronted adverbials)

Cyclical/non-linear structure

READ OTHER NOVELS/SHORT STORIES/POETRY/PLAYS – IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO READ – ASK!

Narrative v descriptive

A narrative should include a lot of description.

A description should not include any narration.

Language devices

Simile

Metaphor

Personification

Onomatopoeia

Alliteration

Imagery

Symbolism

Oxymoron

Juxtaposition

Pathetic Fallacy

Sentence starts

Verb – Running quickly, she (make sure you finish sentence)

Adverb – Darkly, the night sky....

Adjective – Red light filled the ...

Preposition – Down there, all...

Connective – However, his life...

Basic narrative structure

Setting

Character

Problem

Climax

Resolution

The descriptive 'rules'

No names for people

At least 5 zoom-ins

No person described for more than a paragraph

Minimum 5 senses

1-3 sentences of direct speech

Maximum 1 exclamation mark

3rd person

No thoughts

Present or past tense (not both)

Move the camera – like a film

The narrative 'rules'

The story takes place within one hour

Maximum 3 characters

Maximum 3 sentences of direct speech

Show not tell

Minimum 1 adjective per sentence

Minimum 5 senses

Maximum 1 exclamation mark

3rd person

50% description with zooms

Don't 'chat' to the reader

A 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary