

AQA style

GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing – Practice Paper

8700/1 · Practice paper

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Candidate name	
Centre number	
Candidate number	

Materials

- Black pen
- Source A (insert)

Instructions

- Answer all questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
- You must not use a dictionary.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for Section A and 40 marks for Section B.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in Section A.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your writing in Section B.
- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

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Section A: Reading

Answer all questions in this section. You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

01 Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 20.

Choose four statements below which are true.

Shade the boxes of the ones that you think are true. Choose a maximum of four statements.

If you make an error, cross out the whole box. If you change your mind and require a statement that has been crossed out, draw a circle around the box.

[4 marks]

A	The fog arrived a little after three o'clock.	
B	The fog drifted slowly in from the sea.	
C	The gulls went quiet when the fog arrived.	
D	Jess's grandfather said 'Right' three times.	
E	Jess was thirteen that summer.	
F	Jess had first been out on the boat the year before.	
G	Grandad Arthur had fished this coast for fifty-one years.	
H	Jess's mother doubted that Grandad could find his way home.	

02 Look in detail at this extract, from lines 24 to 33 of the source:

24 He did not answer. He was staring at the compass in its little
25 brass housing beside the wheel, and his face had an expression she
26 had never seen on it before, a kind of polite puzzlement, as if
27 the compass were a stranger who had greeted him in the street and
28 he could not remember where they had met. His hand moved on the
29 spokes, turning them a little to the left, then a little to the
30 right, then back again. The engine muttered. The fog pressed
31 closer, beading on the rail, on the oilskins, on the fine hairs of
32 Jess's arms, until everything she touched was cold and wet and
33 faintly salt.

How does the writer use language here to describe Grandad Arthur's confusion?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

03 You now need to think about the whole of the source.

This text is from the middle of a short story.

How has the writer structured the text to show the change in the relationship between Jess and her grandfather?

You could write about:

- how the relationship is presented at the beginning of the source
- how and why the writer changes the focus as the source develops
- any other structural features that show this change.

[8 marks]

04 Focus this part of your answer on the second half of the source, from line 49 to the end.

'In this part of the story, the writer shows Jess as brave and in control, but the ending makes her success feel sad rather than triumphant.'

To what extent do you agree with this statement? You can agree and/or disagree.

In your response, you could:

- consider your own impressions of Jess and of her grandfather
- comment on the methods the writer uses
- support your response with references to the text.

You might consider whether the grandfather's final words change how we see what Jess has achieved.

[20 marks]

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Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section. Write in full sentences. You are reminded of the need to plan your answer. You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

05 Your school is putting together a collection of creative writing called 'Turning Points'.

Either:

Write a description of a seaside town out of season, as suggested by this picture:

[Picture prompt: an empty seafront promenade in winter rain. The amusement arcade is shuttered, the deckchairs are stacked and chained, and a single café window glows yellow at the end of the row.]

Remember, you can use your imagination; you do not have to describe the picture exactly.

Or:

Write the opening of a story about a moment when a young person has to take charge.

(24 marks for content and organisation; 16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

[40 marks]

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END OF QUESTIONS