GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS 1 & 2 ~ REVISION GUIDE
Language Paper 1
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading

Q1: List four things (5 mins)
⇒ These ‘things’ may be explicit (obvious) or implicit (hidden, hinted at)

Q2: How does the writer’s use of language… (10 mins)
⇒ Focus on a given section within the extract.
⇒ Comment on the writer’s methods, explaining how they want to make the reader Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.)

Q3: How does the writer use structure (15 mins)
⇒ Focus on the whole source.
⇒ Look at character, setting and atmosphere. How do they change from the beginning, to the middle, to the end?
⇒ What is the writer trying to achieve through these changes?

Q4: To what extent do you agree? (20 mins)
⇒ Focus on the given section of the extract.
⇒ Prove / explain / demonstrate why someone would say this about the extract (Remember! The question begins with a comment by someone who has read the extract).
⇒ You could think about how the writer has used language / structure / tone / implicit and explicit meaning.

Section B: Writing

Q5: Descriptive / narrative writing (50 mins: 5 mins planning + 40 mins writing + 5 mins checking)
⇒ Write a description / narrative using the picture as your stimulus.
Language Paper 2
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading

Q1: True / False statements (5 mins)
⇒ Shade in the four correct statements

Q2: Write a summary... (10 mins)
⇒ Compare the sources, summarising the explicit and implicit ideas

Q3: How does the writer use language (15 mins)
⇒ Focus on one source.
⇒ Comment on the writer’s methods, explaining how they want to make the reader Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.)

Q4: Compare different perspectives / viewpoints (20 mins)
⇒ How do their viewpoints / perspectives compare / contrast? Why?
⇒ What methods do the writers use to convey their viewpoint / perspective?
⇒ What implicit viewpoints / perspectives are there?

Section B: Writing

Q5: Write about your own views (50 mins: 5 mins planning + 40 mins writing + 5 mins checking)
⇒ You will be asked to write your own views on a given subject.
⇒ You will have to express your views in the form of a newspaper article, a speech, a letter, or another genre.

Be sure that you...

- know the difference between the two papers
- know the timings for each question
Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

1 Hour 45 Minutes
80 Marks
Q1: List four things (5 mins)

How to respond

- You are given a section from the text. **Read it.**
- The ‘things’ you are looking for may be **explicit** (obvious) or **implicit** (hidden, hinted at)
- You have to **list four things** you learn about it based on a given subject.
- You should write your response in **very short sentences.**

Top Tips

- No need to look at writers’ methods
- No need for complicated answers
- Keep your answers short and to the point
- Do not spend more than five minutes on this question

Read again the first part of the Source from lines 1 to 7.
List four things from this part of the text about the weather in Cornwall. [4 marks]

1. *It was cold and grey*

2. *It was windy*

3. *The weather had changed overnight*

4. *The air was clammy and cold*
Q2: How does the writer’s use of language... (10 mins)

How to respond
⇒ Focus on the question and the **given section of text**
⇒ Identify **words** and **phrases** relevant to the question then ask:
  - what techniques has the writer used?
  - what is the writer trying to get the reader to **Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.)** and why?

Top Tips
⇒ Follow the question guidance. Do as it says.
⇒ Begin all paragraphs with ‘**The writer...**’
⇒ You must use **quotes** from the extract
⇒ Identify the **specific literary techniques**, where possible
⇒ **Write a lot about a little.** Focus on four good uses of language / techniques and write about them in-depth
⇒ In your analysis, talk about ‘**the reader**’

Look in detail at this extract from **lines 8 to 18 of the Source**:

The wind came in gusts, at times shaking the coach as it travelled round the bend of the road, and in the exposed places on the high ground it blew with such force that the whole body of the coach trembled and swayed, rocking between the high wheels like a drunken man.

The driver, muffled in a greatcoat to his ears, bent almost double in his seat in a faint attempt to gain shelter from his own shoulders, while the dispirited horses plodded sullenly to his command, too broken by the wind and the rain to feel the whip that now and again cracked above their heads, while it swung between the numb fingers of the driver.

The wheels of the coach croaked and groaned as they sank into the ruts on the road, and sometimes they flung up the soft sputtered mud against the windows, where it mingled with the constant drizzling rain, and whatever view there might have been of the countryside was hopelessly obscured.

How does the writer use language here to describe the effects of the weather?

You could include the writer’s choice of:
- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

One way in which the writer uses language to describe the effects of the weather is through the simile

“the coach trembled and swayed...like a drunken man.” The simile suggests to the weather is making the coach difficult to control. Indeed, the simile also hints at a level of unpredictability which could imply that the weather is dangerous.
How to respond

- **Read the whole source**
- Look for **key moments of change** in the text
- Look at character, setting and atmosphere. **How do they change from the beginning, to the middle, to the end?**
- What **impact is the writer trying to achieve** through these changes?

You now need to think about the whole of the Source.

This text is from the opening of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the Source develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

The writer begins by focusing the reader’s attention on the ‘cold grey... granite sky’ and ‘mizzling rain’. The writer is creating a gloomy atmosphere from the start of the novel. This could create tension as poor weather in novels often suggests that bad things are going to happen. The bad weather continues throughout the extract and is used to explore the characters’ reactions to it. However, it reinforces the sense of foreboding for the reader so as to gain their interest.

**Top Tips**

- You do not need to study language - instead you look at how the text is organised.
- At the very least, look at the sequence of events, changes in narrative perspective and shifts in focus.
- You may also look for patterns, contrasts, repetition and motifs.
Q4: To what extent do you agree? (20 mins)

How to respond

⇒ Focus on given section of the extract.
⇒ Read the quote given in the question—prove / explain / demonstrate why someone would say this about the extract.
⇒ You could think about how the writer has used language / structure / tone / implicit and explicit meaning.

Top Tips

⇒ Agree with the quote in the question—do not disagree.
⇒ Use the question guidance to help you.
⇒ You use the same skills in this question as you did in questions 1 to 3. So consider how the writer uses explicit/implicit meaning, language and structure.
⇒ Think about the writer’s intention—what are they try to get the writer to Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.) and how? Are they effective?

I agree with the quotation. The writer brings the different characters to life by showing how they contrast. The ‘old man’s reactions to the journey are sharply at odds with the ‘jovial red-faced woman’ and her ‘sympathy’. Containing these opposing characters in a confined space heightens tension, but convincingly portrays how varied people are in their attitudes, which adds a sense of realism. Perhaps this is method used to make the reader feel like they are there.
Q5: Write a description/narrative
50 mins: 5 mins planning + 40 mins writing + 5 mins checking

How to respond

⇒ Choose which question you wish to respond to. Do not do both.
⇒ Read the instructions carefully for your chosen question.
⇒ Spend 5 minutes planning how you will respond. Write this in your answer booklet as a list, spider diagram, or whatever you choose.
⇒ Spend 40 minutes writing carefully in paragraphs.
⇒ Spend 5 minutes checking spelling, punctuation, and grammar and that your work makes sense.

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing page.

Either:

Write a description of a stormy sea as suggested by this picture:

Top Tips

⇒ You are rewarded for engaging and careful work. So write in an exciting manner and with accurate SPaG.
⇒ Use a range of literary techniques for effect.
⇒ Planning will ensure your work makes sense; checking will ensure you don’t make mistakes. So use your time well.

Or:

Write a story that begins with the sentence: ‘This was going to be a terrible day, one of those days when it’s best to stay in bed because everything is going to turn out bad.’

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

[40 marks]
Language Paper 2:
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives

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1 Hour 45 Minutes
80 Marks
Q1: True / False statements (5 mins)
These statements may be explicit (obvious) or implicit (hidden, hinted at)

How to respond
⇒ You are given a section from an extract of text. Read it.
⇒ Shade in the four boxes which you think give correct statements

Top Tips
⇒ Focus on the lines given in the instructions.
⇒ Spend no more than 5 minutes on this question as it is worth the fewest marks.
⇒ If you shade in the wrong box, draw a circle around it and cross it with an ‘X’
Q2: Write a summary... (10 mins)

Compare the sources, summarising the explicit and implicit ideas
The question could ask you to compare difference or similarities

How to respond
⇒ Skim read all of both sources for information in response to the question
⇒ Find points of similarity / difference, depending upon the question’s demands.
⇒ Using quotations to support you, explain what you think can be inferred from the similarities / differences.

You need to refer to source A and source B for this question:

The things to see and do at Glastonbury Festival and Greenwich Fair are different.
Use details from both sources to write a summary of the differences.

[8 marks]

In source A, the writer suggests that one thing to see are acts such as "Coldplay, Elvis Costello and the American rock band The Killers". which suggests Glastonbury is a popular and well-funded festival.

However, in lines 1 to 13 of Source B, Dickens presents a comprehensive list of things to see, with the intention of giving an overwhelming sense of the occasion, suggesting that quality may be compromised by quantity.

Top Tips
⇒ Remember this exam looks at writers’ viewpoints and perspectives. So, think about what you can infer (work out) about the writers’ opinions on a subject.
⇒ Use quotes to back up your findings.
⇒ You do not need to look at writer’s methods or techniques.
Q3: How does the writer use language (15 mins)

How to respond

⇒ Refer to the given section of one source.
⇒ Comment on the writer’s methods, explaining how they want to make the reader Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.)
⇒ Aim to write about 4 methods in detail

You now need to refer only to source B, Dickens’ description of the fair itself (from line 19 to the end).

How does Dickens use language to make you, the reader, feel part of the fair?

[12 marks]

One way in which Dickens make the reader feel part of the fair is by using language that appeals to the sense of sound. Words such as ‘screams’, ‘shouts’, ‘clanging’, ‘firing’, ‘bellowing’ all convey the impression of the intense level of noise. Furthermore, this listing of sounds has the cumulative effect of suggesting that it is quite overwhelming. Perhaps Dickens may be indicating that the experience is a mixture of pleasure and discomfort. In either case, this aids the reader in feeling a part of the fair.

Top Tips

⇒ Begin all paragraphs with ‘The writer...
⇒ You must use quotes from the extract
⇒ Identify the specific literary techniques, where possible
⇒ Write a lot about a little. Focus on four good uses of language / techniques and write about them in-depth
⇒ In your analysis, talk about ‘the reader’
Q4: Compare different perspectives / viewpoints (20 mins)

How to respond

- Ask ‘How do the writers get you to see their points of view?’
- What mood / impression are they trying to convey? How do you know?
- How do the writers use techniques to show their point of view?
- Aim to write about 4 to 5 well analysed points.

For this question, you need to refer to the whole of source A together with the whole of source B. Compare how the writers have conveyed their different views and experiences of the festival and fair they describe.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different views and experiences
- compare the methods they use to convey those views and experiences
- support your ideas with references to both texts.

[16 marks]

The writer of source A has a negative impression of Glastonbury, at least at the start of his article. Dickens, however, seems to be enthusiastic about Greenwich Fair throughout. The title of source A ‘Are we having fun yet?’ is a rhetorical question suggesting irony, an idea reinforced by the picture of a person standing in a large muddy pool of water, which is not an image of fun. Source B, however is called ‘Dickens lets his hair down’ which indicates a carefree attitude at odds with that in Source A.

Top Tips

- Remember that viewpoints and perspectives are sometimes implicit (hidden, hinted at) or explicit (obvious).
- Use words of comparison / contrast such as ‘However’, ‘By contrast’, ‘Similarly’ etc
- Use sentence stems like ‘The writer is trying to convey…’ or ‘The writer presents..’
- Remember! How do they use literary techniques to make you see their view?
Q5: Write about your own views  
(50 mins: 5 mins planning + 40 mins writing + 5 mins checking)

How to respond

 You will be asked to write your own views on a given subject.
 You will have to express your views in the form of a newspaper article, a speech, a letter, or another genre.

Top Tips

 Focus on what the question asks you to do
 Be sure that you are writing in the correct form (letter, article, speech, blog)
 Plan your answer so you know what you are going to write
 Check your answer to avoid errors in SPaG
 Make your writing formal, but lively and interesting. Use literary techniques.
 Be sure that you express your point of view clearly and back it up with good reasons.
 You do not have to believe what you say. Just be interesting.

Dear Editor

The idea that ‘festivals should be banned’ and that ‘they encourage bad behaviour’ is quite absurd. Far from being ‘disruptive’, they are occasions which members of the community look forward to. I believe that it is possible to obtain a balance between...
Language Paper 1
Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading

Q1: List four things (5 mins)
⇒ These ‘things’ may be explicit (obvious) or implicit (hidden, hinted at)

Q2: Analyse language (10 mins)
⇒ Write about words, phrases and literary techniques

Q3: How does the writer use structure (15 mins)
⇒ Write about how things change from the beginning, to the middle, to the end and why.

Q4: To what extent do you agree? (20 mins)
⇒ Prove / explain / demonstrate the given statement with evidence from the source, examining language / structure / tone / implicit and explicit meaning.

Section B: Writing

Q5: Descriptive / narrative writing (50 mins: 5 mins planning + 40 mins writing + 5 mins checking)
⇒ Write a description / narrative using the picture as your stimulus.

Language Paper 2
Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading

Q1: True / False statements (5 mins)
⇒ Shade in the four correct statements

Q2: Write a summary... (10 mins)
⇒ Compare the sources, summarising the explicit and implicit ideas

Q3: How does the writer use language (15 mins)
⇒ Comment on the writer’s language and methods, explaining how they want to make the reader Feel, Imagine or Think (F.I.T.)

Q4: Compare different perspectives / viewpoints (20 mins)
⇒ How do their viewpoints / perspectives compare / contrast? Why? What methods do the writers use to convey their viewpoint / perspective?

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