AQA

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number | | | | | | Candidate number | | | | |

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

Candidate signature _____

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Tuesday 4 November 2025 Morning Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** – provided as a separate insert.

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- 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.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
TOTAL	

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**.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

Do not write outside the box

Section A: Reading

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

0 1 Read again the first part of the source, from **lines 1 to 6**.

List **four** things about the classroom from this part of the source.

[4 marks]

1 _____

_____

2 _____

_____

3 _____

_____

4 _____

_____

4

Do not write outside the box

0 2 Look in detail at this extract, from **lines 7 to 15** of the source.

***Reunion* by Fred Uhlman has not been reproduced here due to third party copyright restrictions.**

How does the writer use language here to describe the teacher?

You could include the writer's choice of:

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

[8 marks]

Do not write outside the box

8

Do not write outside the box

Extra space for question 2 only (if needed)

Turn over for the next question

Do not write outside the box

0 3 You now need to think about the **whole** of the source.

This text is from the beginning 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 of the source
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

[8 marks]

Do not write outside the box

8

Turn over ►

Do not write outside the box

Extra space for question 3 only (if needed)

Do not write outside the box

0 4 Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from **line 20 to the end**.

A student said, ''The new boy is clearly very different from the rest of the students and the writer suggests that everything about him is better than everybody else.''

To what extent do you agree?

In your response you could:

- consider your impressions of the new boy
- evaluate how the writer presents the new boy as better than everybody else
- support your response with references to the text.

[20 marks]

Do not write outside the box

Do not write outside the box

Turn over ►

Do not write outside the box

20

Do not write outside the box

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.

0 5 Your school newspaper is running a creative writing competition. The best entries will be published.

Either

Write a description of a classroom, as suggested by this picture:

or

Write a story called 'The Newcomer'.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

Turn over ►

Do not write outside the box

You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.

Do not write outside the box

Turn over ►

Do not write outside the box

Do not write outside the box

Turn over ►

Do not write outside the box

40

Do not write outside the box

Extra space for question 5 only (if needed)

END OF QUESTIONS

Do not write outside the box

There are no questions printed on this page

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

Do not write outside the box

Question number	**Additional page, if required.** **Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.**

Do not write outside the box

Question number	**Additional page, if required.** **Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.**

Do not write outside the box

Question number	**Additional page, if required.** **Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.**

Do not write outside the box

There are no questions printed on this page

DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk.

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.