

Supporting your child to succeed in GCSE English Language

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Meridian Trust: Area Director of English



What course is my child studying?

AQA Exam Board

English language paper 1

- Worth 50% of the GCSE
- 1 paper: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 5 questions total
 - 4 questions analysis of unseen fiction text
 - 1 question developing a narrative or descriptive written response

English language paper 2

- Worth 50% of the GCSE
- 1 paper: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 5 questions total
 - 4 questions analysis of two unseen non-fiction texts
 - 1 question developing a non-fiction style written response



Paper 1:

Section A: Explorations in creative reading and writing



40 marks
25% of English
language
qualification

Insert

The source that follows is:

Source A: 20th Century prose-fiction

The Mill by H E Bates

An extract from the beginning of a short story, published in 1935.



Paper 1: Section B: Narrative or Descriptive writing

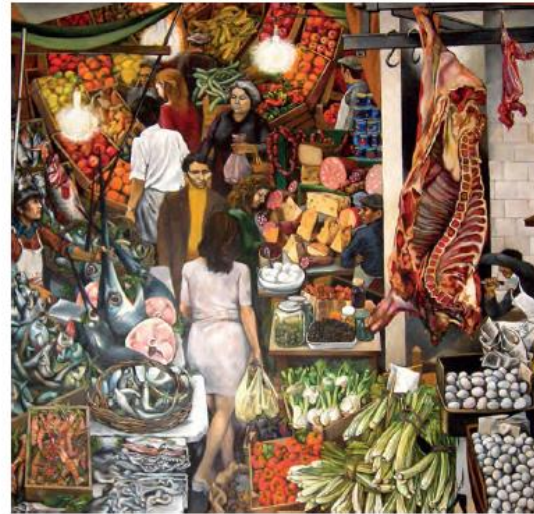
40 marks
25% of English
language
qualification

0 5

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either

Describe a market place as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.

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



Paper 2:

Section A: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives



Insert

The two sources that follow are:

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

The Crossing

An extract from James Cracknell and Ben Fogle's autobiographical account of crossing the Atlantic, published in 2006

Source B: 19th Century literary non-fiction

Idle Days in Patagonia

An extract from W H Hudson's travel writing, published in 1893



Paper 2:

Section B: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

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.

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'It is people who have extraordinary skill, courage and determination who deserve to be famous, not those who have good looks or lots of money or behave badly.'

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper in which you argue your point of view in response to this statement.

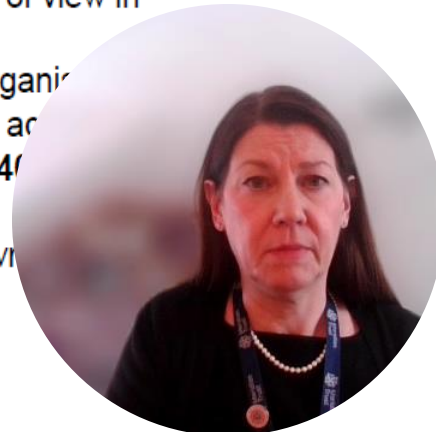
(24 marks for content and organisation)

16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40]

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

40 marks
25% of English
language
qualification



Top tips for answering specific questions

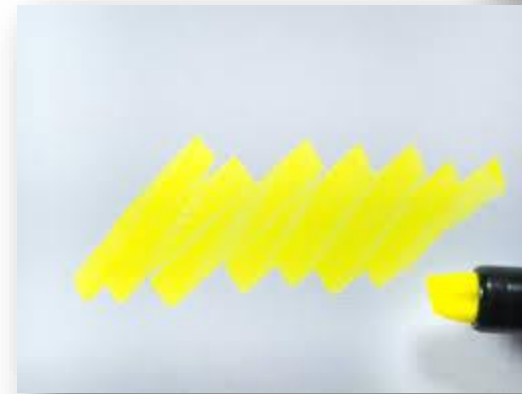
- Timing is everything!
- Students should be guided by how many marks the question is worth, to understand how long should be spent in the development of an answer.
- Section A for both papers should take 1 hour (15 minutes for the reading of the unseen texts)
 - Question 1 = 4 marks, so 5 minutes
 - Question 2 = 8 marks, so 10 minutes
- Section B for both papers should take 45 minutes



Section B is worth
50% of marks
available!

What equipment does my child need to succeed?

- Clear pencil case (for exam regulations)
- Black Pen (permanent ink)
- Highlighter pens



What resources are available to support my child?

- CGP revision guides- available through school or online
- Recorded presentations created by the trust
- BBC Bitesize
- [AQA revision for English language and literature](#)
- chobden@meridiantrust.co.uk



With all of these, make sure you search for 'AQA' as the exam board