1.12 Writing: Planning and Structure Drills: 10-minute Pack

Total Marks

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 10 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Here is a story idea: 'A pupil discovers a hidden room at the back of the school library.' Write THREE different opening sentences for this story. Use a different technique for each part, as labelled below.

(a) Write an action opening (start with something happening). **(2)**

(b) Write a dialogue opening (start with someone speaking). **(2)**

(c) Write a description/atmosphere opening (start by describing a place, object or mood). **(2)**

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2 Rewrite each 'telling' sentence below as a 'showing' sentence. Use action, behaviour or detail to let the reader work out the feeling for themselves. Do not use the word given in brackets anywhere in your answer.

(a) Jamal was nervous before his exam. (Do not use the word 'nervous'.) **(2)**

(b) The kitchen was messy. (Do not use the word 'messy'.) **(2)**

(c) Grandma Wilkins was proud of Leah. (Do not use the word 'proud'.) **(2)**

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Question 1

(a) opens with movement/an event already underway, not with description or speech oe — **B1**

(a) a specific, vivid verb or detail used (e.g. 'swung inward', 'dust exploding') rather than a generic action oe — **B1**

(a) Answer: Ibrahim's fingers had barely brushed the loose shelf before it swung inward, dust exploding into the beam of his torch.

(b) opens directly with spoken words in correctly punctuated speech marks oe — **B1**

(b) the dialogue reveals character reaction or curiosity relevant to the discovery oe — **B1**

(b) Answer: "There's no way this door has always been here," said Grace, pressing her palm flat against the cold brick.

(c) opens with description of setting/atmosphere rather than action or speech oe — **B1**

(c) sensory or atmospheric detail used (e.g. smell, temperature) to create mood oe — **B1**

(c) Answer: At the very back of the library, behind the shelf marked "Reference - do not remove", the air smelled of old paper and something colder, older.

Question 2

(a) the banned word ('nervous') and any direct synonym for it are not used oe — **B1**

(a) a concrete, specific action or physical detail that implies the feeling (e.g. tapping pen, bouncing knee) oe — **B1**

(a) Answer: Jamal's pen tapped against the desk three times before he had even opened the paper, and his knee would not stop bouncing under the table.

(b) the banned word ('messy') and any direct synonym for it are not used oe — **B1**

(b) specific, concrete visual detail(s) that show disorder (e.g. stacked plates, a trail of flour) oe — **B1**

(b) Answer: Unwashed plates were stacked three high in the sink, and a trail of flour led from the counter to the open cupboard door.

(c) the banned word ('proud') and any direct synonym for it are not used oe — **B1**

(c) an action or behaviour that implies the feeling (e.g. displaying the certificate, telling others) oe — **B1**

(c) Answer: Grandma Wilkins pinned the certificate to the fridge with a magnet shaped like a strawberry and told the postman about it twice that morning.

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