1.20 Creative and Persuasive Writing Prompts: 1-hour Pack

Total Marks

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 60 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Your local council is deciding whether to spend £40,000 on extending the car park behind the leisure centre, or on building a small skate park on the same land. Write a letter to the council persuading them to choose the skate park (250-350 words, about 20-25 minutes).

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): your main argument and at least two supporting reasons or pieces of evidence; the car park counter-argument and how you will answer it; at least one persuasive technique you plan to use (for example a rhetorical question or the rule of three); a memorable closing line.

Use appropriate letter conventions (for example an address and date, a suitable greeting and sign-off).

(18)

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2 Write a recount of a day when something did not go according to plan (250-350 words, about 20-25 minutes). It can be a real memory or an invented one, but it should feel truthful and personal.

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): the events of the day in order, including the moment things went wrong; at least one specific feeling or reaction; how the day was resolved or what you learned from it.

Focus on a genuine personal voice and specific, convincing detail rather than a general list of events.

(18)

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3 Write the opening of a story (250-350 words, about 20-25 minutes). Your story must begin with this exact sentence:

'Nobody in the village would go near the old windmill after dark, but tonight Priya had no choice.'

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): a plausible reason nobody goes near the windmill after dark; a specific, urgent reason Priya has no choice tonight; the mood or atmosphere you want to build.

Focus on building atmosphere and tension without over-explaining the mystery.

(18)

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4 Describe an abandoned house from the point of view of someone walking through it for the first time (250-350 words, about 20-25 minutes). You do not need to tell a story; focus on vivid, sustained description.

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): sensory details across more than one sense; an order for the description (for example, room to room); one small, specific object or detail to focus on; one overall mood to sustain.

Avoid generic 'spooky house' images; aim for detail that feels specific and original.

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Mark scheme · 1.20 Creative and Persuasive Writing Prompts: 1-hour Pack

Question 1

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 4 A sophisticated, sustained argument that manages the reader throughout, using precise, ambitious vocabulary, a confident range of persuasive techniques (for example rhetorical question, rule of three, direct address) used for deliberate effect, and a considered, well-answered counter-argument. **10-12**

Level 3 A well-organised argument with a clear main position, relevant supporting reasons, and at least one deliberate persuasive technique used for effect. Appropriate letter conventions used correctly. **7-9**

Level 2 A clear argument with a main position and some supporting reasons, using some appropriate vocabulary, but limited use of persuasive technique or letter conventions. **4-6**

Level 1 A simple statement of opinion with limited supporting reasons; little use of persuasive technique or appropriate letter form. **1-3**

Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Consistently accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout, including on ambitious vocabulary and more complex sentence structures; punctuation used precisely for effect. **5-6**

Level 2 Mostly accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar; occasional errors on more ambitious vocabulary or complex sentences, but meaning is never lost. **3-4**

Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and/or grammar; simple sentence structures used almost throughout. **1-2**

Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content:

- a clear, sustained argument for the skate park with specific, relevant reasons (for example, cost per user, health and activity benefits, existing car park capacity)
- accurate letter conventions (address and date, salutation, sign-off) appropriate to a formal audience
- deliberate persuasive techniques (for example rhetorical questions, rule of three, direct address to the reader) used for effect rather than inserted at random
- a considered acknowledgement and answer to the car park counter-argument
- award up to 12 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 6 marks for technical accuracy (AO6), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks, use best-fit judgement across each grid

Question 2

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 4 A sophisticated, convincing recount with a genuine, sustained personal voice, precise and ambitious vocabulary, and a confident range of techniques (for example reflection, varied pace, specific sensory or emotional detail) used for deliberate effect. **10-12**

Level 3 A well-organised recount in a clear chronological order, with specific, convincing detail and some honest reflection on feelings, using appropriate vocabulary. **7-9**

Level 2 A clear recount of events in a logical order, with some relevant detail, but limited reflection or variety of vocabulary. **4-6**

Level 1 A simple, list-like recount of events with little detail or reflection; limited vocabulary and mostly simple sentence structures. **1-3**

Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Consistently accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout, including on ambitious vocabulary and more complex sentence structures; punctuation used precisely for effect. **5-6**

Level 2 Mostly accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar; occasional errors on more ambitious vocabulary or complex sentences, but meaning is never lost. **3-4**

Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and/or grammar; simple sentence structures used almost throughout. **1-2**

Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit. **0**

Indicative content:

- events recounted in a clear, controlled chronological order with a genuine sense of personal voice
- specific, convincing detail rather than generalisation (named people, particular moments, exact small details)
- honest reflection on feelings and reactions at key moments, not just a list of events
- a considered ending that reflects on the day rather than simply stopping
- award up to 12 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 6 marks for technical accuracy (AO6), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks, use best-fit judgement across each grid

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Question 3

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 4 A sophisticated, convincing narrative opening that manages the reader's response throughout, for example through pace, suspense or a controlled hint of what is to come. Precise, ambitious vocabulary and a confident range of narrative techniques used for deliberate effect. A clear, distinctive voice.	**10-12**
Level 3 A well-organised opening with a clear sense of character, setting and situation, and at least one deliberate technique (for example a simile, dialogue or varied sentence lengths) used for effect. Some awareness of how to engage the reader.	**7-9**
Level 2 A clear opening with a recognisable character and setting, and some appropriate vocabulary. Limited use of description or technique to engage the reader.	**4-6**
Level 1 A simple opening with a single idea; limited vocabulary and mostly simple sentence structures; little sense of character or setting established.	**1-3**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Consistently accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout, including on ambitious vocabulary and more complex sentence structures; punctuation used precisely for effect.	**5-6**
Level 2 Mostly accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar; occasional errors on more ambitious vocabulary or complex sentences, but meaning is never lost.	**3-4**
Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and/or grammar; simple sentence structures used almost throughout.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Indicative content:

- a convincing, specific reason for the village's fear of the windmill, planted early rather than explained all at once
- a clear, urgent reason Priya must go, creating immediate tension
- controlled build of atmosphere (for example through setting, sound or weather) rather than simply stating that a place is 'scary'
- the opening sentence used as a genuine hook rather than restated or over-explained
- award up to 12 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 6 marks for technical accuracy (AO6), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks, use best-fit judgement across each grid

Question 4

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 4 A sophisticated, sustained description that creates a vivid and convincing overall impression, using precise, ambitious vocabulary and a confident range of descriptive techniques (for example figurative language, varied sentence structures, precise sensory detail) for deliberate effect.	**10-12**
Level 3 A well-organised description with a clear sense of place and atmosphere, using sensory detail across more than one sense and at least one deliberate descriptive technique (for example simile or personification) for effect.	**7-9**
Level 2 A clear description with some relevant sensory detail and appropriate vocabulary, but limited variety of technique or sentence structure.	**4-6**
Level 1 A simple description with limited, mostly visual detail; little variety of vocabulary or sentence structure.	**1-3**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Consistently accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar throughout, including on ambitious vocabulary and more complex sentence structures; punctuation used precisely for effect.	**5-6**
Level 2 Mostly accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar; occasional errors on more ambitious vocabulary or complex sentences, but meaning is never lost.	**3-4**
Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and/or grammar; simple sentence structures used almost throughout.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Indicative content:

- specific, unusual sensory detail (for example a particular smell, a sound, a texture) rather than generic 'spooky house' description
- a clear route or order through the house that gives the description shape
- one small, specific object or detail used to anchor the description and suggest a story beyond it
- a controlled, sustained atmosphere built through word choice rather than a list of stock images
- award up to 12 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 6 marks for technical accuracy (AO6), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks, use best-fit judgement across each grid

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