1.20 Creative and Persuasive Writing Prompts: 30-minute Pack

Total Marks

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 30 minutes

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

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

'The letter had been sitting on the doormat for three days before anyone noticed it.'

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): your main character and one telling detail about them; the setting; who the letter might be from and why nobody noticed it sooner; one hint about what happens next.

Focus on hooking your reader and establishing character, setting and a sense of intrigue.

(18)

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2 Describe a busy street market on a Saturday morning (250-350 words, about 20-25 minutes). You do not need to tell a story; focus on creating a vivid, sustained picture using more than one sense.

PLANNING FRAME (not marked, but use it before you write): at least one detail for sight, sound, smell and touch; an order for your description (for example, as if walking through the market); one overall mood or impression to sustain throughout.

Focus on precise vocabulary and at least one piece of figurative language (simile, metaphor or personification).

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Mark scheme · 1.20 Creative and Persuasive Writing Prompts: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

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 character who is established quickly and convincingly, for example through a habit, a thought or a small physical detail
- a plausible, interesting reason the letter went unnoticed for three days (for example, a busy household, a broken postbox, a character avoiding the door)
- a hint of mystery or tension about the letter's contents or sender, planted early to hook the reader
- the given opening sentence used as a genuine springboard into the story, rather than simply repeated or 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 2

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, well-chosen sensory detail across sight, sound, smell and more, not just visual description
- a clear, controlled structure for moving through the scene (for example, stall to stall, or general atmosphere narrowing to one small detail)
- figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification) used purposefully rather than for decoration
- a consistent overall impression or mood established and sustained throughout
- 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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