# 1.28-4 Creative Writing Focus Set 4: Test Pack

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

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

**Answer ALL questions.**

**1** Rewrite this sentence, replacing 'busy' and 'noisy' with two more precise, effective words: 'The playground was busy and noisy at morning break.'

**(3)**

**2** Deepa has just dropped her tray in the middle of the busy canteen. Without using the word 'embarrassed' anywhere, show how she feels using three different techniques: a physical reaction, an action, and a piece of internal thought.

**(3)**

**3** A fox is slipping through a gap in the garden fence at dusk. Complete both tasks below about the same moment.

**(a)** Write one long, flowing sentence (at least 20 words) that builds up the moment as the fox approaches and squeezes through the gap. **(2)**

**(b)** Write one short, sharp sentence (five words or fewer) that captures the moment the fox vanishes into the shadows. **(2)**


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**4** A cracked paving slab has been pushed up at an angle by a tree root growing beneath it. Write one original simile AND one original metaphor to describe it. Avoid common comparisons.

**(a)** Write an original simile describing the pushed-up paving slab. **(2)**

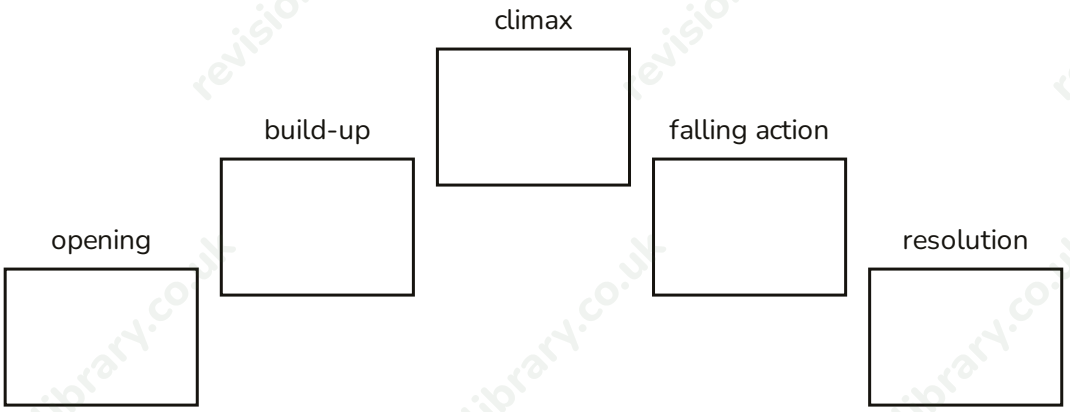
**(b)** Write an original metaphor describing the pushed-up paving slab. **(2)**

**5** A blacksmith is at work in a forge on a busy morning. Write one sentence that uses BOTH alliteration and an onomatopoeic word to bring the scene to life.

**(3)**


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**6** Plan a story titled 'The Understudy' using the five-stage story mountain below. Write one brief note (a phrase, not a full sentence) for each stage.




**(5)**


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**7** A narrowboat cabin on the canal is lit only by a fading torch as dusk falls. Without using the words 'dark', 'scary' or 'creepy', write TWO words or short phrases that convey an uneasy atmosphere.

**(2)**

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**8** Correct the THREE errors in this short passage, then improve the weak word choice: 'The boat glided threw the water fast. It was really good and the crew felt proud. Coach Reyes waved at them happy from the bank.' There is one homophone error, one adverb error, and one weak/imprecise word choice ('really good') to improve.

**(4)**


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# Mark scheme · 1.28-4 Creative Writing Focus Set 4: Test Pack

## Question 1

replaces 'busy' with a precise, effective word or phrase (e.g. 'swarming', 'crowded', 'heaving') oe **B1**

replaces 'noisy' with a precise, effective word or phrase (e.g. 'clamorous', 'echoing with shouts') oe **B1**

sentence remains grammatically accurate and reads fluently as a whole **B1**

**Answer: The playground was heaving and echoing with shouts at morning break.**

## Question 2

physical reaction shown effectively without naming the emotion (e.g. 'Her face burned.') oe **B1**

action shown effectively without naming the emotion (e.g. 'She dropped to her knees and began scooping up chips before anyone could look properly.') oe **B1**

internal thought shown effectively without naming the emotion (e.g. 'Please let the bell go right now.') oe **B1**

**Answer: Physical - 'Her face burned.' Action - 'She dropped to her knees and began scooping up chips before anyone could look properly.' Thought - 'Please let the bell go right now.'**

## Question 3

(a) sentence is at least 20 words and uses subordination or coordination to build a sense of continuous movement **B1**

(a) sentence is grammatically accurate and creates an effective sense of build-up **B1**

**(a) Answer: Keeping low to the ground and pausing every few steps to listen, the fox padded silently along the fence line until it found the gap, easing its narrow body through the splintered space between two rotting posts.**

(b) sentence is five words or fewer **B1**

(b) sentence creates a clear sense of abruptness or sudden disappearance **B1**

**(b) Answer: Then it was gone.**

## Question 4

(a) simile is grammatically correct (uses 'like' or 'as') **B1**

(a) comparison is original, apt and avoids cliche **B1**

**(a) Answer: The slab tilted upward like a trapdoor someone had forgotten to close.**

(b) statement functions as a metaphor (states one thing is another, without 'like'/'as') **B1**

(b) comparison is original, apt and avoids cliche **B1**

**(b) Answer: The slab was a grey wave, frozen mid-break by the root beneath it.**

## Question 5

sentence includes a clear example of alliteration (at least two words sharing an initial sound) **B1**

sentence includes an apt onomatopoeic word **B1**

sentence is fluent, grammatically accurate and vivid as a whole **B1**

**Answer: Sparks spat and scattered as the hammer clanged against the glowing metal.**

## Question 6

opening note is relevant and establishes character/setting (e.g. a nervous understudy learns the lead has a cold before the show) oe **B1**

build-up note develops logically from the opening (e.g. understudy is told, with an hour's notice, that they must go on stage instead) oe **B1**

climax note presents a clear turning point (e.g. understudy forgets a line but improvises and the audience does not notice) oe **B1**

falling action note follows logically from the climax (e.g. the understudy finishes the performance and the cast reacts) oe **B1**

resolution note provides a clear, appropriate ending (e.g. the original lead recovers, but the director now sees the understudy differently) oe **B1**

**Answer: Example plan: Opening - nervous understudy Priya learns the lead actor has a cold just before the matinee; Build-up - the director tells Priya, with an hour's notice, that she must go on stage instead; Climax - Priya forgets a line halfway through but invents a new one that the other actor picks up on; Falling action - the performance finishes to warm applause and the cast gathers backstage; Resolution - the original lead recovers for the evening show, but the director asks Priya to understudy the next production's lead role instead.**

## Question 7

first word/phrase conveys unease without using the banned words, appropriate to the setting oe **B1**

second word/phrase conveys unease without using the banned words, appropriate to the setting oe **B1**

**Answer: 'the torch beam trembling' and 'a hush pressing in from every side'**

## Question 8

corrects 'threw' to 'through' (homophone error) **B1**

corrects 'happy' to 'happily' (adverb error) **B1**

replaces 'really good' with a more precise, effective description (e.g. 'flawless', 'their fastest time all season') oe **B1**

full corrected passage is grammatically accurate and reads fluently **B1**

**Answer: The boat glided through the water fast. It was their fastest time all season, and the crew felt proud. Coach Reyes waved at them happily from the bank.**


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