1.28-5 Creative Writing Focus Set 5: 1-hour Pack

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

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 Write a full descriptive piece (approximately 250 to 350 words) titled 'The Disused Observatory'. You are describing a place, not telling a story: there should be no significant sequence of plot events. Plan briefly before you write, and use the whole page.

(20)

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2 Write a story (approximately 350 to 450 words) that begins with these exact words: 'The photograph arrived without a single word of explanation.' You may continue directly from this sentence. Plan your structure briefly before you write, and leave a little time at the end to check your work.

(24)

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3 Write ONLY the turning-point (climax) scene from a story, in which a character exploring a coastal cave realises the tide has cut off the entrance behind them. Do not write the whole story: focus on building tension and use sentence structure and punctuation deliberately to control pace. Approximately 150 to 200 words.

(12)

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4 The paragraph below is flat and repetitive. Rewrite it as a single improved paragraph. Do not simply add adjectives to every noun. You must: vary your sentence openers and lengths; combine at least THREE of the short sentences into more complex sentences using subordination; add at least one piece of figurative language; and remove the monotonous 'I' plus verb pattern used throughout: 'I cycled to the park. It was windy. I saw a kite. I saw a puddle. I got home. I opened the shed. My dad whistled. I laughed.'

(10)

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Mark scheme · 1.28-5 Creative Writing Focus Set 5: 1-hour Pack

Question 1

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 4 Sophisticated, original description that sustains atmosphere and viewpoint throughout; ambitious figurative language used precisely for effect; a deliberately crafted structure (for example a shifting focus, or contrast between past purpose and present neglect) shapes the reader's response.	**10-12**
Level 3 Detailed, engaging description using a range of the senses and some figurative language; a clear and controlled viewpoint with effective paragraphing.	**7-9**
Level 2 Clear description with some relevant detail and a recognisable viewpoint; organisation is mostly logical, with some paragraphing.	**4-6**
Level 1 Simple description with limited detail; little sense of viewpoint or structure; ideas may be listed rather than developed.	**1-3**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Spelling and punctuation are accurate throughout, including ambitious vocabulary and a wide range of punctuation used confidently and precisely for effect; sentence structures are varied and skilfully controlled.	**6-8**
Level 2 Consistently accurate spelling and punctuation, used to support meaning; a good range of sentence structures used with some control for effect.	**3-5**
Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and sentence structure that may obscure meaning.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Indicative content:

- the rusted dome, peeling paintwork and the huge, silent shape of the telescope beneath its dust sheets
- the contrast between the precise purpose the building once had and its present neglect
- sensory detail across sound (creaking metal, wind through gaps in the dome), smell (dust, old oil, cold stone) and sight (shafts of light through cracks, faded star charts on the walls)
- a controlling image or motif sustained throughout, for example stillness, forgotten time, or the idea of looking upward
- a structural device such as moving from a wide shot to close-up detail, or tracking a single shaft of light as it moves across the room
- award up to 12 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 8 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, carefully structured narrative that manages the reader's response throughout, for example through pace, suspense or a controlled twist. Ambitious and precise vocabulary. A confident range of literary techniques used for deliberate effect. A strong, distinctive narrative voice, and full, purposeful use of the given opening line.	**12-14**
Level 3 A well-organised narrative with a clear structure, including an engaging development from the opening line and a satisfying or deliberately unresolved ending. A range of vocabulary and some deliberate use of literary techniques (for example dialogue, varied sentence lengths) to create effect.	**8-11**
Level 2 A clear narrative with a recognisable beginning, middle and end. Some appropriate vocabulary choices and occasional use of description or dialogue. Some awareness of the reader, for example through a simple attempt at atmosphere or tension.	**4-7**
Level 1 A simple, single-idea narrative. Limited vocabulary and mostly simple sentence structures. Little sense of structure, with beginning, middle and end uneven or unclear.	**1-3**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 4 Spelling, punctuation and grammar are accurate throughout, even in ambitious or complex constructions. Punctuation is used for deliberate stylistic effect.	**9-10**
Level 3 Spelling, punctuation and grammar are consistently accurate across a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences and direct speech where used.	**6-8**
Level 2 Spelling, punctuation and grammar are mostly accurate on simple sentence structures; some errors appear on more ambitious or complex sentences.	**3-5**
Level 1 Frequent errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar that sometimes obscure meaning. Little variety of sentence structure.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

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Indicative content:

- a family mystery, a forgotten relative, an old friendship, or a place the photograph shows that the character does not recognise
- a flashback or piece of research explaining who might have sent the photograph and why
- a moment of hesitation or curiosity before investigating further, used to build intrigue
- dialogue with another character reacting to the photograph
- a resolution that responds directly and specifically to what the photograph turns out to show or mean
- credit any coherent, consistent character(s) and setting, for example Amara, Rhys, or any name chosen by the pupil
- any plausible interpretation of 'the photograph' should be credited if it is developed coherently, using the grids above
- award up to 14 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 10 marks for technical accuracy (AO6); do not itemise individual points as marks, use best-fit judgement across each grid

Question 3

Content and organisation (AO5)

Level 3 A tightly controlled, gripping turning-point scene; both the realisation and the rising water are vividly dramatised, sustaining tension throughout.	**6-7**
Level 2 Clear building of tension with a recognisable turning point; the realisation is described with some immediacy.	**3-5**
Level 1 Some sense of danger or urgency, but pacing is inconsistent, or the turning point is not clearly dramatised.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Technical accuracy (AO6)

Level 3 Sentence structures and punctuation are deliberately and skilfully controlled to build tension and control pace, with full accuracy.	**5**
Level 2 Some use of sentence length or structure to affect pace; mostly accurate punctuation.	**3-4**
Level 1 Sentence structures are not varied or controlled for pace; punctuation errors may distract from the tension being built.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Indicative content:

- a physical or sensory trigger for the realisation, for example the sound of the entrance narrowing, or daylight shrinking at the cave mouth
- the exact moment the character understands the danger, and the immediate sensory change (cold water rising, echoing walls, the smell of salt and rock)
- short sentences or a deliberate sentence fragment used to speed up pace at the moment of realisation
- physical detail showing the character's reaction (scrambling for higher rock, gripping a torch tighter) rather than simply stating they are frightened
- award up to 7 marks for content and organisation (AO5) and up to 5 marks for technical accuracy (AO6), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks

Question 4

Technical accuracy (sentence variety) (AO6)

Level 3 At least three original short sentences are successfully combined using accurate subordination; sentence openers and lengths are varied confidently and correctly punctuated throughout.	**5-6**
Level 2 Some successful combination of sentences using subordination; a little more variety in sentence openers and lengths than the original.	**3-4**
Level 1 Limited combination of sentences; sentence openers are still mostly repeated; at most one clause is joined by subordination.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Content (descriptive improvement) (AO5)

Level 2 Effective, original descriptive detail and figurative language are woven naturally into the improved paragraph, genuinely enhancing it.	**3-4**
Level 1 Some added descriptive detail and one piece of figurative language, though it may be undeveloped or only loosely connected to the sentence.	**1-2**
Level 0 Nothing worthy of credit.	**0**

Indicative content:

- combining at least three of the original short sentences using subordinating conjunctions such as 'as', 'although', 'because' or 'when'
- varied sentence openers, so that not every sentence begins with 'I'
- one original simile or metaphor describing the wind, the kite, or the puddle
- the content and meaning of the original paragraph (cycling to the park, the wind, a kite, a puddle, arriving home, the shed, dad whistling, laughing) is preserved
- award up to 6 marks for technical accuracy (AO6) and up to 4 marks for content (AO5), using the grids above; do not itemise individual points as marks

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