1.28-5 Creative Writing Focus Set 5: Test Pack

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

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

1 The passage below is written as one long run-on sentence, joined incorrectly by commas (comma splices). Rewrite it correctly, using a mixture of full stops and at least ONE semicolon OR at least ONE subordinating conjunction to fix the punctuation. Do not change the content or the order of ideas: 'The minibus turned into the mill yard, everyone climbed down still half asleep, Mrs Adeyemi checked the register twice, she wanted to be sure nobody had wandered off at the services, the great wooden wheel outside was taller than the whole minibus, it turned slowly with a steady grinding creak, inside the air smelled of flour dust and damp stone, nobody expected the noise to be so loud, it felt like standing inside a giant clock.'

(6)

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2 The words 'good', 'said', 'small' and 'went' are used in the short passage below. Replace EACH one with a more precise, context-appropriate alternative. Do not change any other words: 'It was a good morning. "Wake up," said Nana. We went to the small bakery at the end of the road.'

(a) Replace 'good'. **(1)**

(b) Replace 'said'. **(1)**

(c) Replace 'small'. **(1)**

(d) Replace 'went', AND check that all four of your replacement words together keep a consistent, natural tone across the whole passage. **(2)**

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3 For each subject below, write ONE original simile and ONE original metaphor. Your images must be fresh: do not use well-known comparisons such as 'silent as the grave' or 'a storm of emotions'.

(5)

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4 Below are the topic sentences that open three consecutive paragraphs describing an allotment open day. As currently written, they do not link together. The first is done for you: 'The allotment open day began at ten o'clock.' Rewrite sentences 2 and 3 below (keeping their main content) so that each uses a cohesive device, such as a time connective or a reference back to the paragraph before, to link clearly to what came before it.

(a) Sentence 2: 'There was a competition for the best-grown vegetables.' **(2)**

(b) Sentence 3: 'The prize-giving happened at the end.' **(2)**

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5 Before writing a story titled 'The Night Bus', complete the five-box planning grid below. Write brief notes (not full sentences) for each stage of the story.

(a) Opening: introduce the character and setting. **(1)**

(b) Build-up: something starts to go wrong or feel strange. **(1)**

(c) Climax: the most dramatic moment of the story. **(1)**

(d) Resolution: how the immediate problem is sorted out. **(1)**

(e) Ending: how the story finishes, AND write ONE original twist idea, briefly explaining how it connects to at least two of your earlier stages. **(2)**

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6 The three sentences below all start with 'The'. Rewrite each one using the opener type stated in brackets. You may reorder the information, but you must not lose any of it.

(a) The hawk circled slowly above the field, hunting for movement in the grass. (Rewrite using an -ing opener, e.g. 'Circling...') **(1)**

(b) The thunder rolled ominously across the valley just after sunset. (Rewrite using an adverb opener, e.g. 'Suddenly,...') **(1)**

(c) The cyclist swerved around the pothole at the last second. (Rewrite using a preposition opener, e.g. 'At...') **(1)**

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7 The passage below is set in an old observatory that has stood locked and unused for years. Add ONE precise word to each gap to build an eerie atmosphere. Write only your chosen word for each gap, not the whole sentence.

(a) 'The great dome above them ____ as it slowly began to turn for the first time in years.' (an onomatopoeic sound word) **(1)**

(b) 'Sheets over the old telescopes hung ____, thick with years of dust.' (a precise visual detail) **(1)**

(c) 'Somewhere below, a loose shutter ____ against its frame in the wind.' (an onomatopoeic sound word) **(1)**

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

Question 1

'The minibus turned into the mill yard' and 'everyone climbed down still half asleep' correctly separated (full stop, or accurately joined with a conjunction) cao **B1**

'Mrs Adeyemi checked the register twice' and 'she wanted to be sure nobody had wandered off at the services' correctly separated or accurately joined (e.g. with 'because') cao **B1**

'the great wooden wheel outside was taller than the whole minibus' correctly separated from the surrounding text cao **B1**

'it turned slowly with a steady grinding creak' correctly separated or accurately joined to the sentence before it (e.g. with a semicolon) cao **B1**

'inside the air smelled of flour dust and damp stone' and 'nobody expected the noise to be so loud' correctly separated cao **B1**

no comma splices remain anywhere in the passage, AND at least one semicolon or subordinating conjunction is used correctly somewhere in the response cao **B1**

Answer: The minibus turned into the mill yard. Everyone climbed down, still half asleep. Mrs Adeyemi checked the register twice because she wanted to be sure nobody had wandered off at the services. The great wooden wheel outside was taller than the whole minibus; it turned slowly with a steady grinding creak. Inside, the air smelled of flour dust and damp stone. Nobody expected the noise to be so loud. It felt like standing inside a giant clock.

Question 2

(a) a more precise adjective describing the morning, e.g. golden, bright, mild oe **B1**

(a) Answer: golden / bright / mild

(b) a more precise speech verb fitting a warm, encouraging tone, e.g. called, coaxed, sang out oe **B1**

(b) Answer: called / coaxed

(c) a more precise adjective describing the bakery, e.g. cosy, tucked-away, narrow oe **B1**

(c) Answer: cosy / tucked-away

(d) a more precise verb of movement fitting a relaxed birthday morning, e.g. wandered, meandered, strolled oe **B1**

(d) all four replacement words together read naturally as one consistent passage, with no jarring shift in register or formality oe **B1**

(d) Answer: wandered / meandered

Question 3

an original simile for 'silence', grammatically correct (using 'like' or 'as'), that fits the connotations of silence oe **B1**

an original metaphor for 'silence', stated directly (X is Y, or an equivalent construction), that fits the connotations of silence oe **B1**

an original simile for 'a thunderstorm', grammatically correct, that fits the connotations of a thunderstorm oe **B1**

an original metaphor for 'a thunderstorm', stated directly, that fits the connotations of a thunderstorm oe **B1**

none of the four images is a well-known cliche, and all four are apt to their subject cao **B1**

Answer: Silence (simile): The silence settled over the room like a blanket nobody had asked for. Silence (metaphor): The silence was a held breath, waiting to be let go. A thunderstorm (simile): The thunderstorm rolled in like a lorry reversing over loose gravel. A thunderstorm (metaphor): The thunderstorm was a drum solo that refused to end.

Question 4

(a) the sentence retains its original core content (a best-grown-vegetables competition takes place) oe **B1**

(a) a genuine cohesive device links the sentence to the open day starting (e.g. a time connective, or reference back to the start of the day) oe **B1**

(a) Answer: An hour after the gates opened, the competition for the best-grown vegetables got under way beside the greenhouse.

(b) the sentence retains its original core content (a prize-giving takes place at the end of the day) oe **B1**

(b) a genuine cohesive device links the sentence to earlier events (e.g. echoed vocabulary, a time connective, or reference to the competition already described) oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Once every vegetable had been judged, including the giant marrow that had drawn a small crowd all morning, the visitors gathered for the prize-giving.

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Question 5

(a) relevant, specific notes introducing a character and setting, consistent with the title oe **B1**

(a) Answer: Callum catches the last night bus home in heavy rain and sits beside an old man who keeps staring out of the window.

(b) relevant notes showing an early sign of the coming problem, consistent with the story idea oe **B1**

(b) Answer: The bus takes a route Callum does not recognise, passing shopfronts and streetlamps that all look decades out of date.

(c) relevant notes describing the most dramatic moment, directly connected to the earlier build-up oe **B1**

(c) Answer: The bus stops at a request stop that does not appear on any current map, and the old man rises and beckons for Callum to follow him off.

(d) relevant notes showing the immediate problem being resolved, consistent with earlier stages oe **B1**

(d) Answer: Callum refuses to get off, and the driver, without turning round, tells him this is the last stop before the depot and that the road back to his own stop is straight ahead after all.

(e) relevant notes providing a sense of ending or reflection, consistent with the rest of the plan oe **B1**

(e) an original, inventive twist idea with a brief, valid explanation of how it connects to at least two named earlier stages oe **B1**

(e) Answer: Ending: Callum gets home safely and falls asleep still in his coat, telling himself the whole journey was a trick of tiredness. Twist: the next morning he finds a bus ticket in his coat pocket stamped with a date fifty years earlier, connecting the out-of-date shopfronts from the build-up and the old man's silent, insistent staring from the opening to something that was never fully explained.

Question 6

(a) correct -ing opener (present participle) used at the start of the sentence, grammatically accurate, retaining both the circling and the hunting oe **B1**

(a) Answer: Circling slowly above the field, the hawk hunted for movement in the grass.

(b) correct adverb opener used at the start of the sentence, followed by a comma, grammatically accurate, retaining all original information oe **B1**

(b) Answer: Ominously, the thunder rolled across the valley just after sunset.

(c) correct preposition opener used at the start of the sentence, grammatically accurate, retaining all original information oe **B1**

(c) Answer: Around the pothole, the cyclist swerved at the last second.

Question 7

(a) any onomatopoeic word suggesting an unpleasant grinding, groaning or shrieking sound, fitting the sentence grammatically oe **B1**

(a) Answer: groaned / ground / shrieked

(b) any precise visual word suggesting disorder, sagging or decay (e.g. tattered, drooping, grey), fitting the sentence grammatically oe **B1**

(b) Answer: tattered / drooping / grey

(c) any onomatopoeic word suggesting a banging, rattling or clattering sound, fitting the sentence grammatically oe **B1**

(c) Answer: banged / rattled / clattered

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