

English Language Paper 1

Q5

Name:

**Focussed Practice for the WRITING SECTION
QUESTION 5- NARRATIVE (STORY) OR DESCRIPTION**

**45 MINUTES
40 MARKS
50% OF THE PAPER**

WAYS TO REVISE:

- PRACTISE THE PLAN AND THE WRITE-UP**
- MEMORISE THE SENTENCE STRUCTURES**
- LET FAMILY READ AND CHECK FOR TECHNICAL ACCURACY
AND CLARITY**

Paper 1 Writing Target(s)

WHAT THE QUESTION LOOKS LIKE

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0 5

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either

Describe a market place as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

WE WILL CHOOSE THE STORY OPTION

'FOUR FOR MORE'-THE 4-PART SUCCESS STORY

ONE: SETTING - describe

- Pathetic fallacy (DRAMATIC to add ACTION)
- Use WEATHER AS SYMBOL (make it NEGATIVE, HOSTILE, THREATENING)
- Prepositions (NAVIGATE THE READER)
- HINT AT A DIFFERENT PAST using 'once; now' sentencing

TWO: CHARACTER- describe

- One or two characters- no more- keep minimal
- Show, not tell- describe an interesting appearance/behaviour which hints at the life they lead.
- Craft the actions/behaviour of the character to reflect personality
- Keep dialogue minimal and crafted.

THREE: FLASHBACK:

- Go back to a MOMENT in the past that helps explain the current situation that the character is in.
- Ensure that you keep your writing in the past tense!

FOUR: RETURN TO SCENE:

- Don't feel the need for resolution or huge drama! Zoom in on something in the scene or introduce a danger/threat/hope to develop.
- Offer a glimpse of a change- use the weather to symbolise this (clouds are great for this!)

WHERE HAVE WE GOT TO SO FAR?

A STORY IDEA

- In class, you should now have worked on an idea for a story that follows the structure on the previous page.
- Using this booklet, practise writing your narrative, using the 4-PART STRUCTURE.
- Don't ignore the sentence structures and prepositions in this booklet. They will massively improve your answer.
- Following each response, ask a family member or friend to read your work and complete the Editor's Check List.
- Bring the booklet in to mark any answers you've completed!

PARENTS!

If your child does not have a story idea, please work with them to consider some of the options here...

NEED IDEAS?

- Soldier suffering with PTSD has returned home and struggling with life.
- A WW1 soldier is just about to go over the top of the trenches.
- A domestic abuse victim has had enough. It's fight or flight.
- A child is on the train to Auschwitz.
- An elderly dementia sufferer is looking through old photos.
- An astronaut is stranded on a spaceship, looking back at Earth.

PLAN OUT YOUR OWN IDEA FROM CLASS

THE 4-PART SUCCESS STORY- The Plan

SETTING :	✓
Success criteria	

ONE: SETTING

CHARACTER :	✓
Success criteria	

TWO: CHARACTER

FLASHBACK :	✓
Success criteria	

THREE: FLASHBACK:

RETURN TO SCENE:	✓
Success criteria	

FOUR: RETURN TO SCENE:

Model Answer- 4 part Structure

The mud-grey clouds heaved sluggishly across the dark, scowling sky. Below a ram shackled apartment block stood: its broken windows looked like missing teeth in a decaying jaw. Once this landscape was pristine and white; now it looked tired and worn. Neglected. Through one of the windows was a room that was no different. Empty beer bottles littered the stained and faded carpet. The fridge in the kitchen was bare, apart from some milk that had long turned sour. Above this forgotten space hung a thick veil of cigarette smoke. To add to this fuzzy confusion, a TV hissed with white noise. The place looked lifeless.

A phone began to ring.

Somewhere adrift on a stained, yellowed couch, a figure lay curled up with a hood hung over their head. A faint grey light of dawn tried to give him strength but he just groaned and turned over. His frame was frail and withered: his face white and mottled with scars. His arms hung limp over the edge of the sofa and the bloodied knuckles had left his hands swollen and bruised. At the sides of his mouth, dried blood had gathered, spreading rumours of the night before and his breath was still thick with drink. This scene had been on repeat since he had come home. His life nothing but constant and insufferable white noise. He was lost. Abandoned. Ashamed.

The phone continued to ring.

It had been one day out in Afghanistan that had been the dividing mark: Before and After. Before the day that he arrived, he had expected that the country he travelled to was one of wonderful magic and intrigue. He had imagined the cheers in the air as they called him a hero. He had imagined the applause as he brought new hope and promise to a sun-filled land. But it wasn't like this. After he arrived, it was very, very different. His friend had probably been picked up by the medics. He was probably found, hauled into the ambulance and taken to safety. He was probably treated for the gunshot wounds and then probably sent back home to his family. But then again, he possibly wasn't. He was possibly dead in the ditch and it was probably his fault for leaving him to die as he ran for safety himself. His screams for help rang in the ears like falling missiles and the blood left an immovable stain that would haunt him forever. He was probably fine. But then again, he possibly wasn't.

Still the phone rang. Unanswered and ignored.

He peeled himself off the sofa, his ears still ringing. As he made his way over to the fridge, the white noise drowned out any sense of normality and routine. He grabbed a bottle, went back to the sofa and sunk back down again. Another day drowned and lost; another attempt to flush away the screams and the stains. He lit a cigarette and stared vacantly at the TV screen. Above him, the plumes of smoke formed a fresh shadow. With a sigh, he began to wonder. How long was he going to let this thing have control over him? How long until the heavy weight on his shoulders eventually broke him? How long could he stand the ghost that haunted the four walls of his apartment? It had been two years since he had returned and dug deep into this dismal and decaying apartment and it had even been eighteen months since he pushed his partner out of the door in one of his many boiling rages. Since his return, his foggy head buzzed and hissed and his thoughts rarely went anywhere at all. The drink and drugs had, at first, been able to quieten the dark shadow that had always lay behind the eyes, but recently the sudden recollections had become more intense, more explosive, as if the enemy was finally trying to gain enough territory to take control. He knew that the moment had come to fight or surrender – he just found it so hard to take that first step.

With a flicker, the TV picture shifted and wobbled and the faint vision of an early-morning news reader took shape. The broken and distant voice crept into the room and he slowly turned his head away from his thoughts and to the screen. A ray of sun crept through the gap in the curtains and warmed his face. After a few moments, he noticed another sound becoming clear. He listened.

The phone was ringing.

He reached out to the cluttered coffee table and searched for contact. Shaking, he picked it up.

“Hello?” he said.

“Yes, its me.”



TECHNICAL ACCURACY- SENTENCING

LOVE IT OR HATE IT (AND MOST HATE IT), IT MATTERS FOR THE WRITING QUESTIONS.

What can you do?

When practising your writing, try and build in one example of each of these sentence types. Once you have one of each, write out your own list and try to memorise them as best you can so that you can use them in the exam.

- ☐ **Simple- "The trees stood tall".**
- ☐ **Compound (BOYS) "The sky was beautiful, yet threatening."**
- ☐ **2A/3A "The road was long, empty and bewildering."**
- ☐ **One word- Destruction.**
- ☐ **Fronted Adverbial (Mystery) "Wildly, the wind screamed across the landscape."**
- ☐ **Complex: "The rain, which was heavy, battered the open road."**
- ☐ **De:De "The sun had lost the battle for today: it would be back to fight once again."**
- ☐ **Once; now "Once this landscape had been pristine and pure; now it looked tired and worn."**
- ☐ **Gerund "Crawling across the perilous battlefield, a terrible scream pierced the air to her left"**
- ☐ **Prepositional sentence: "Just beyond the valley, thick plumes of black smoke could be seen moving through the sky"**

TECHNICAL ACCURACY- PREPOSITIONS

LOVE IT OR HATE IT (AND MOST HATE IT), IT MATTERS FOR THE WRITING QUESTIONS.

What can you do?

When practising your writing, make sure that you guide the reader using prepositions like the ones below. Try to memorise them as best you can so that you can use them in the exam.

Before

Behind

Up

Over

Next to

Without

Between

On

Opposite

Under

Upon

Into

PREPOSITIONS

Across

At

Near

Past

Towards

By

Against

Behind

Through

In

Down

Along

Below

Underneath

Beneath

Nearby

THE MOST IMPORTANT PART- THE PRACTICE

Instructions:

- Each response should take you no longer than 45 minutes to complete (including planning time)
- You should bear the success criteria in mind whilst writing: you are marked on your *Content and Organisation*, as well as your *Technical Accuracy*.
- Don't ignore the sentence structures and prepositions in this booklet. They will massively improve your answer.
- Using a thesaurus, you must look up at least 5 pieces of ambitious vocabulary per response. Circle when you include new vocabulary in your work.
- Make sure you're planning each time, deliberately trying to use your story idea each time. Practice helps you perfect your idea!
- Need support?
For Paper 1, use [descriptionari.com](https://www.descriptionari.com) or [describingwords.io](https://www.describingwords.io)
- Following each response, ask a family member or friend to read your work and complete the Editor's Check List.
- Bring the booklet in to mark any answers you've completed!

Either:

Write a description suggested by the picture.



Or:

Write about a time you felt a lack of control.

(24 marks for content and organisation

16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

DON'T FORGET TO PLAN YOUR ANSWER

[illegible]

[illegible]

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Editor's Checklist



- ☐ Planned first and then completed in 45 minutes max!
- ☐ Capital letters and full stops used where necessary.
- ☐ Paragraphs evident - with short paragraph for effect and structural features used to link ideas.
- ☐ 5+ ambitious words (looked up in thesaurus and circled when included)
- ☐ At least four of the sentence types mentioned in this booklet (e.g fronted adverbial)
- ☐ Similes and metaphors used. Ideally extended throughout piece. *E.g. Like a predator, he stalked his victim.*
- ☐ Personification used. *E.g. the wind howled as if the whole sky was injured.*
- ☐ At least one colon used (:) and At least one semi-colon used (;)
- ☐ At least 4 prepositions used to guide the reader
- ☐ Is it clear? Can you follow the structure?

Did you enjoy reading the piece? (Y or N) _____

What did you enjoy?

What do you think can be improved?

Either:

Write a description about the beauty of nature, as suggested by the picture.



Or:

Write a story which includes a new beginning.

(24 marks for content and organisation

16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

DON'T FORGET TO PLAN YOUR ANSWER

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[illegible]

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Blank lined paper for writing.

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What did you enjoy?

What do you think can be improved?

PARENTS!

Where do you think this answer sits in this table? We're aiming for at least Level 3!

Level 1:	Level 2:	Level 3:	Level 4:
Simple Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simple/basic vocabulary One or two relevant ideas Brief/very brief Very conscious use of the image eg. 'in the picture there is..' throughout Clichéd imagery eg. 'could eat a horse' Limited understanding of writing a story Very basic sense of character Very basic sense of plot Very basic sense of setting/atmosphere Unrelated/random details Limited control of ideas Limited scope Incorrect focus Very basic/rushed pace 	Some Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Makes some attempt to describe Narrative moves quickly, not much control over pace Tone/style/register inconsistent Some atmosphere Over use of linguistic devices Under developed ideas Imagery/vocab may be contrived Attempt to vary vocabulary/imagery varying success Structure could be swapped easily around Some understanding character, plot Some linked ideas Direct speech is straightforward Ideas may be rather predictable eg. Suddenly there is a robbery/zombies Ending is contrived 	Clear Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear understanding of description/ narrative Clear and more original/successful imagery Logical structure eg. Not easily swapped without disrupting the flow of ideas Develops ideas Keeps interest of the reader Language is used with understanding Language is not awkward/contrived Clearer sense of audience/shape to their writing Ideas are not predictable, or are made interesting Clear control of character/plot Controlled pace to narrative clear narrative voice Able to use temporal shifts/change the pace A range of more developed ideas 	Convincing Communication <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convincing use of narrative/description Engaging, reader sorry for it to end Characterisation/setting convincing and well controlled Subtle details, becoming compelling Range of ideas carefully controlled Highly controlled pace, flows Impressive Crafted phrasing Shaped writing, perhaps with a controlled ending Vocabulary choices broad and challenging for a 15/16 year old Imagery original and successful Fluently linked paragraphs Discourse markers are seamlessly integrated Sense of 'a writer' where the piece is assured/confident Complex/mature Ideas, may be conceptual Use of direct speech is judicious - highlights characterisation Inventive use of structural features

Pick out two things that have been done successfully.

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What could be aimed for next time?

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Either

Write a description of an old person as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story about a time when things turned out unexpectedly.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

DON'T FORGET TO PLAN YOUR ANSWER

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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What could be aimed for next time?

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Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either

Write a story about a magical world as suggested by this picture:



or

Describe a place you think is beautiful.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

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