

AQA GCSE English Language

SET B

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

For this paper, you will need:

- The **Source text**, which is provided in a separate insert.

Instructions to candidates

- Answer **all** the questions in the spaces provided.
- Write your answers in **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- Write your name and other details in the boxes below.
- Cross out any rough work that you do not want to be marked.
- You need to refer to the insert booklet for this exam.
- You should **not** use a dictionary.

Information for candidates

- The marks available are given in brackets next to each question.
- There are 80 marks available for this exam paper.
- Section A** will test your reading skills and **Section B** will test your writing skills. There are 40 marks available for each section.
- You must use good English and clear presentation in your answers.

Advice for candidates

- You should spend about **15 minutes** reading through the source and all five questions.
- Make sure you leave enough time to check your answers at the end of the exam.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
Total	

Centre name						Surname
Centre number						Other names
Candidate number						Candidate signature

Acknowledgements

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Extract on page 3 from The Scarlet Plague, by Jack London.

With thanks to iStock for permission to use the image on page 11.

Section A: Reading

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blank*

Answer **all** questions in this section.

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

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Read again the first part of the source, **lines 1 to 8**.

List **four** things from this part of the text about the path that the old man and the boy are walking along.

[4 marks]

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- 2
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- 3
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- 4
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Look in detail at this extract from **lines 9 to 16** of the source:

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An old man and a boy travelled along this runway. They moved slowly, for the old man was very old, a touch of palsy made his movements tremulous, and he leaned heavily upon his staff. A rude skull-cap of goatskin protected his head from the sun. From beneath this fell a scant fringe of stained and dirty-white hair. A visor, ingeniously made from a large leaf, shielded his eyes, and from under this he peered at the way of his feet on the trail. His beard, which should have been snow-white but which showed the same weather-wear and camp-stain as his hair, fell nearly to his waist in a great tangled mass. About his chest and shoulders hung a single, mangy garment of goatskin. His arms and legs, withered and skinny, betokened extreme age, as well as did their sunburn and scars and scratches betoken long years of exposure to the elements.

How does the writer use language here to describe the old man?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

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This image shows a full page of a notebook or worksheet. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal dotted lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting practice. The background is plain white, and there are no margins, text, or other markings present.

You now need to think about the **whole** of the **source**.

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blank*

This text is from the opening of a novel.

How has the writer structured the text to gain and hold the reader’s interest?

You could write about:

- what the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- how and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops
- any other structural features that interest you.

[8 marks]

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To what extent do you agree?

- write about your own impressions of the boy
- evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- support your opinions with references to the text.

[20 marks]

This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple sets of three horizontal dotted lines, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The lines are evenly spaced across the entire page, leaving ample room for writing practice. There is no text or other markings on the page.

[illegible]

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This image shows a full page of a handwriting practice worksheet. It consists of multiple rows of horizontal dashed lines spaced evenly down the page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no other markings or text present.

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.

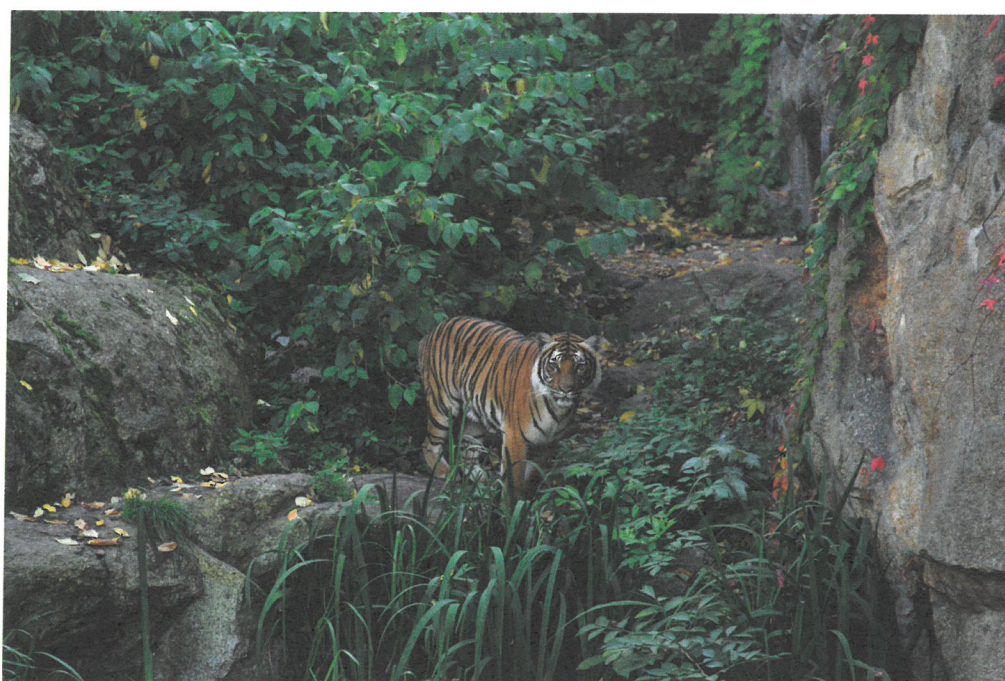
You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

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You are going to enter a creative writing competition being run at your school.

Your entry will be judged by a panel of your classmates.

Either: Write a description suggested by this picture:



Or: Write the opening part of a story about a dangerous encounter with an animal.

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

[40 marks]

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END OF QUESTIONS

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