

# AQA GCSE English Language

## Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

### Mark Scheme

**Q1.** Read again the first part of the Source from **lines 1 to 6**.

List **four** things from this part of the text about the narrator. **[4 marks]**

Give 1 mark for each point about the narrator:

- responses must be true, and only drawn from lines 1 to 6 of the text
- responses must relate to the **narrator**
- students may quote or paraphrase
- a paraphrased response covering more than one point should be credited for each point made – though paraphrased responses must demonstrate evidence of identification of information that is specific to the focus of the question as required by AO1
- responses that copy the whole section of the text from lines 1 to 6 verbatim should not be credited any marks as this does not provide any evidence of identification of information that is specific to the focus of the question as required by AO1

**Indicative content; students may include:**

- His mother died when he was young
- He thinks that his life would be different if his mother had not died
- He thinks that everything that has happened to him since his mother's death is his own fault
- He has never met anyone who loved him as much as his mother did

Or any other valid responses you are able to verify by checking the Source.

**Q2.** Look in detail at this extract from **lines 5 to 20** of the Source. (Extract in paper.)

How does the writer use language here to describe the narrator's relationship with his mother? **[8 marks]**

<p><b>Level 4</b> Detailed, perceptive analysis 7-8 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyses the effects of the writer's choices of language</li> <li>• Selects a judicious range of textual detail</li> <li>• Makes sophisticated and accurate use of subject terminology</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 3</b> Clear, relevant explanation 5-6 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explains clearly the effects of the writer's choice of language</li> <li>• Selects a range of relevant textual detail</li> <li>• Makes clear and accurate use of subject terminology</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 2</b> Some understanding and comment 3-4 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to comment on the effect of language</li> <li>• Selects some appropriate textual detail</li> <li>• Makes some use of subject terminology, mainly appropriately</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 1</b> Simple, limited comment 1-2 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offers simple comment on the effect of language</li> <li>• Selects simple references or textual details</li> <li>• Makes simple use of subject terminology, not always appropriately</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 0</b> No marks</p>	<p>No comments on the use of language. Nothing to reward.</p>

AO2 content may include the effect of ideas such as:

- sentence structure for effect
- use of lexis, e.g. verbs and adjectives
- employing imagery such as metaphor

**Q3.** You now need to think about the **whole** of the Source.

This extract comes from the opening chapter of the novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader? **[8 marks]**

<b>Level 4</b> Detailed, perceptive analysis 7-8 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Analyses the effects of the writer's choice of structural features</li><li>• Selects a judicious range of examples</li><li>• Makes sophisticated and accurate use of subject terminology</li></ul>
<b>Level 3</b> Clear, relevant explanation 5-6 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explains clearly the effects of the writer's choice of structural features</li><li>• Selects a range of relevant examples</li><li>• Makes clear and accurate use of subject terminology</li></ul>
<b>Level 2</b> Some understanding and comment 3-4 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Attempts to comment on the effect of structural features</li><li>• Selects some appropriate examples</li><li>• Makes some use of subject terminology, mainly appropriately</li></ul>
<b>Level 1</b> Simple, limited comment 1-2 marks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Offers simple comment on the effect of structural features</li><li>• Selects simple references or examples</li><li>• Makes simple use of subject terminology, not always appropriately</li></ul>
<b>Level 0</b> No marks	No comments on the use of structure. Nothing to reward.

AO2 content may include the effect of ideas such as:

- shock of the opening paragraph/mention of death
- building picture of the mother over several paragraphs
- shift between different memories
- move from highly positive/idealistic to more critical/realistic description

**Q4.** Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the Source from **line 18 to the end**.

A student, having read this section of the text, said: ‘The description is so vivid that the character of the mother really seems to come to life.’

To what extent do you agree? **[20 marks]**

<p><b>Level 4</b> Detailed, perceptive evaluation 16-20 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluates critically and in detail the effect(s) on the reader</li> <li>• Shows perceptive understanding of writer’s methods</li> <li>• Shows a judicious range of textual detail</li> <li>• Develops a convincing and critical response to the focus of the statement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 3</b> Clear, relevant evaluation 11-15 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluates clearly the effect(s) on the reader</li> <li>• Shows clear understanding of writer’s methods</li> <li>• Selects a range of relevant textual references</li> <li>• Makes a clear and relevant response to the focus of the statement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 2</b> Some evaluation 6-10 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes some evaluative comment(s) on effect(s) on reader</li> <li>• Shows some understanding of writer’s methods</li> <li>• Selects some appropriate textual reference(s)</li> <li>• Makes some response to the focus of the statement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 1</b> Simple, limited evaluation 1-5 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes simple, limited evaluative comment(s) on effect(s) on reader</li> <li>• Shows limited understanding of writer’s methods</li> <li>• Selects simple, limited textual reference(s)</li> <li>• Makes a simple, limited response to the focus of the statement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Level 0</b> No marks</p>	<p>No relevant comments offered in response to the statement, no impressions, no evaluation.</p>

AO4 content may include the evaluation of ideas such as:

- use of extreme detail
- highly descriptive vocabulary
- both idealistic and realistic details included
- range of aspects of her character explored: physical as well as spiritual/personal

**Q5. Either:** Write a description suggested by this picture: (picture of two young adults dressed in 'punk rocker' clothes).

**Or:** Write the opening of a story with the title 'The Outsider'.

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

**A05 Content and Organisation**

<p>Level 4 19-24 marks</p> <p>Content is convincing and crafted;</p> <p>Organisation is structured, developed, complex and varied</p>	<p>Upper Level 4 22-24 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is convincing and compelling throughout</li> <li>• Tone style and register assuredly matched to purpose, form and audience; manipulative, subtle and increasingly abstract</li> <li>• Extensive and ambitious vocabulary with sustained crafting of linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highly structured and developed writing, incorporating a range of integrated and complex ideas</li> <li>• Fluently linked paragraphs with seamlessly integrated discourse markers</li> <li>• Varied and inventive use of structural features</li> </ul>
	<p>Lower Level 4 19-21 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is convincing</li> <li>• Tone, style and register consistently match purpose, form and audience;</li> <li>• Extensive vocabulary with evidence of conscious crafting of linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Structured and developed writing with a range of engaging complex ideas</li> <li>• Consistently coherent use of paragraphs with integrated discourse markers</li> <li>• Varied and effective structural features</li> </ul>

<p>Level 3 13-18 marks</p> <p>Content is clear and chosen for effect</p> <p>Organisation is engaging and connected</p>	<p>Upper Level 3 16-18 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is consistently clear and effective</li> <li>• Tone, style and register matched to purpose, form and audience</li> <li>• Increasingly sophisticated vocabulary and phrasing, chosen for effect with a range of appropriate linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing is engaging using a range of detailed connected ideas</li> <li>• Coherent paragraphs with integrated discourse markers</li> <li>• Effective use of structural features</li> </ul>
	<p>Lower Level 3 13-15 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is clear</li> <li>• Tone, style and register generally matched to purpose, form and audience</li> <li>• Vocabulary clearly chosen for effect and successful use of linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing is engaging with a range of connected ideas</li> <li>• Usually coherent paragraphs with range of discourse markers</li> <li>• Usually effective use of structural features</li> </ul>

<p>Level 2 7-12 marks</p> <p>Content is mostly successful and controlled</p> <p>Organisation is linked/relevant and paragraphed</p>	<p>Upper Level 2 10-12 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication is mostly successful</li> <li>• Some sustained attempt to match purpose, form and audience; some control of register</li> <li>• Conscious use of vocabulary with some use of linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing variety of linked and relevant ideas</li> <li>• Some use of paragraphs and some use of discourse markers</li> <li>• Some use of structural features</li> </ul>
	<p>Lower Level 2 7-9 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates with some success</li> <li>• Attempts to match purpose, form and audience; attempts to control register</li> <li>• Begins to vary vocabulary with some use of linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some linked and relevant ideas</li> <li>• Attempt to write in paragraphs with some discourse markers, not always appropriate</li> <li>• Attempts to use structural features</li> </ul>

<p>Level 1</p> <p>1-6 marks</p> <p>Content is simple</p> <p>Organisation is simple and limited</p>	<p>Upper Level 1</p> <p>4-6 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple communication of ideas</li> <li>• Simple awareness of purpose, form and audience; limited control of register</li> <li>• Simple vocabulary; simple linguistic devices</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two relevant ideas, simply linked</li> <li>• Random paragraph structure</li> <li>• Evidence of simple structural features</li> </ul>
	<p>Lower Level 1</p> <p>1-3 marks</p>	<p><b>Content</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communicates limited meaning</li> <li>• Occasional sense of purpose, form and/or audience</li> <li>• Simple vocabulary</li> </ul> <p><b>Organisation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One or two unlinked ideas</li> <li>• No paragraphs</li> <li>• Limited or no evidence of structural features</li> </ul>

## AO6 Technical Accuracy

<p>Level 4</p> <p>13-16 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence demarcation is consistently secure and consistently accurate</li> <li>• Wide range of punctuation is used with a high level of accuracy</li> <li>• Uses a full range of appropriate sentence forms for effect</li> <li>• Uses Standard English consistently and appropriately with secure control of complex grammatical structures</li> <li>• High level of accuracy in spelling, including ambitious vocabulary</li> <li>• Extensive and ambitious use of vocabulary</li> </ul>
<p>Level 3</p> <p>9-12 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence demarcation is mostly secure and mostly accurate</li> <li>• Range of punctuation is used, mostly with success</li> <li>• Uses a variety of sentence forms for effect</li> <li>• Mostly uses Standard English appropriately with mostly controlled grammatical structures</li> <li>• Generally accurate spelling, including complex and irregular words</li> <li>• Increasingly sophisticated use of vocabulary</li> </ul>
<p>Level 2</p> <p>5-8 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sentence demarcation is mostly secure and sometimes accurate</li> <li>• Some control of a range of punctuation</li> <li>• Attempts a variety of sentence forms</li> <li>• Some use of Standard English with some control of agreement</li> <li>• Some accurate spelling of more complex words</li> <li>• Varied use of vocabulary</li> </ul>
<p>Level 1</p> <p>1-4 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occasional use of sentence demarcation</li> <li>• Some evidence of conscious punctuation</li> <li>• Simple range of sentence forms</li> <li>• Occasional use of Standard English with limited control of agreement</li> <li>• Accurate basic spelling</li> <li>• Simple use of vocabulary</li> </ul>