

AQA ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1 – Explorations in Reading and Creative Writing – Section B

Q.5 Writing to describe or narrate. Select **ONE** of the writing questions options. The descriptive question has a picture stimulus. Produce a piece of original writing that meets the brief in the question (40 marks = 24 content + 16 technical accuracy). 45 minutes, including **planning** and **proofreading**. 25%

Descriptive Writing

Focused on creating an image in the reader's mind and describing a scene in detail.

Language Features

Onomatopoeia - a word that imitates the sound it represents

Personification - an object or animal is given human feelings thoughts or attitudes

Alliteration - repetition of consonant sounds

Metaphor - a comparison of two things without using the word like or as

Extended metaphor - when a writer exploits a single metaphor or analogy at length throughout a poem or narrative

Simile - a comparison of two things using like or as

Pathetic fallacy - a type of personification where emotions are given to a setting will the weather linking to the mood

Structuring a Description

Panoramic - describe the bigger picture (wide angled lens)

Zoom in - focus on an object describe it in extreme detail (close up)

Zoom out - return to the bigger picture

Senses – sights, sounds, smell, taste and touch (but do not use as a tick list)

Motif – a repeated reference to an object, colour or idea throughout the text

Terminology Quizlet: https://quizlet.com/_3lej29

Narrative Writing

Focused on character, setting and plot development with descriptive elements as well as dialogue and action.

Structuring a narrative

Exposition – a narrative device often used at the beginning that provides necessary background information about character and / or setting

Inciting Incident - An event that begins the action/plot

Rising action - Events leading up to the climax

Climax - Most exciting moment of the story; turning point

Falling action - Events after the climax, leading to the resolution

Resolution - Ends the conflict and leaves reader content

Denouement - the strands of the plot are drawn together and matters are explained or resolved.

Cliff hanger - A dramatic moment leaving suspense over what is to come

Flashback - A method of narration in which present action is temporarily interrupted so that the reader can witness past events

The one sentence opener - Start with a one-sentence paragraph or rhetorical question.

Your next paragraph should then jump back in time. Recount the events leading up to this first line.

Twist in the tale - Tell the story in a way that suggests one thing about a character only to surprise the reader at the end.

Circular structure - Start with the end - the most dramatic moment (often present tense) and then flashback to the events leading up to it.

In medias res - Beginning a narrative by plunging into a crucial situation or middle of the story. Often used in conjunction with flashbacks

Foreshadowing - A warning or indication of future events

Juxtaposition - two things being placed closely together with contrasting effect

Different perspectives - tell the instance from one character's perspective and then from a completely different point of view. This can work in first and 3rd person perspective.

Example Question

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

Either

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



or

Describe a place you think is beautiful.

Top Tips from the Examiners

AO5

Planning is important but should not dominate your time for this question.

A 3-page response of controlled, thoughtful description or narrative is often better than very lengthy responses.

Thinking of key words in the question (e.g. abandoned) as a concept can sometimes be helpful

Excessive focus on gore and/or death can make it hard for you to demonstrate your best skills

Analysing structure in someone else's creative writing in Question 3 encourages you to consider the shape of your own writing in Question 5.

Do not list the details in the picture prompt, rather allow imaginative ideas to develop from it. Imagining oneself in the image can be more effective.

Do not write consciously about the image as you may struggle with the register and purpose, e.g., do not write 'in the image I can see'.

Avoid lengthy sections of direct speech

Avoid plots borrowed entirely from films, computer games, literature texts or a previous exam paper

Do not use 'learned responses' that do not fit the question

Make sure your plots are not too complex

Remember a beginning – a middle and an end in the narrative question. Your story must finish somehow.

Writing as a younger voice leads to simplistic narratives

AO6

Be careful of using contrived language. 'Advanced' vocabulary (For example, 'plethora', 'incandescent') does not add quality unless the words are used sparingly and with understanding. Focus on precision, clarity and detailed observations. Take care of punctuation, especially accurate use of apostrophes and commas. Be especially aware of comma splicing and verbless 'sentences' when writing descriptively.

The accurate use of semi-colons and colons a few times is preferable to their being used indiscriminately.

Control and craft sentence and paragraph lengths. Consider a one word minor sentence or one sentence paragraph for effect.

There are 16 marks available for AO6 and you should therefore aim to extend your use of varied punctuation, sentences and paragraphs

Spelling of key words, correct homophones, correct apostrophes, accurate sentence and speech punctuation are all core skills for this specification.

PROOFREAD CAREFULLY

