

The background features a complex geometric design. It includes several circles of varying sizes and thin lines that intersect and curve. A prominent feature is a series of many closely spaced, parallel lines that curve from the right side towards the center, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and minimalist.

Revision

AQA

**GCSE English
Language Paper 1**

Explorations In Creative
Reading and Writing

**BEYOND
REVISION**
GCSE ENGLISH

Contents

Overview of the Exam	2
Paper 1, Section A: The Text	3
Paper 1, Section A: Question 1	7
Paper 1, Section A: Question 2	9
Paper 1, Section A: Question 3	7
Paper 1, Section A: Question 4	13
Paper 1, Section B: Question 5	21
Final Tips	25

Overview of the Exam

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

Date and time: _____

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Marks: 80

Weighting: 50% of total GCSE grade

Section A: Reading and answering seven questions on a 20th or 21st century fiction extract. (40 marks)

Section B: A choice of two fiction **writing** tasks. (40 marks)

Suggested breakdown of marks and timings:

Task	Marks	Suggested timing
Reading text	N/A	15 minutes
Question 1	4 marks	4 minutes
Question 2	8 marks	8 minutes
Question 3	8 marks	8 minutes
Question 4	20 marks	20 minutes
Question 5	40 marks	40 minutes
Checking your work	N/A	10 minutes
Total	80 marks	1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: The Text

The Facts

What will I need to do?

Read an extract from a 20th or 21st century piece of fiction (novel or short story). Any particularly unusual words will be marked with an asterisk and explained in a glossary at the bottom of the text.

Suggested time spent: 4 minutes

Top tips:

- Don't skim through the text first time round – make sure you read it carefully.
- If there are any words or phrases you don't understand, try to use their context in the writing to work out their meaning.
- Remember that you can write on the text as you go through it.

Sample Text

The following is an extract from *The Phantom of the Opera* by Gaston Leroux which is set in a Paris theatre called the Palais Garnier. The performers in the theatre believe that it is haunted by 'The Phantom' or the 'Opera Ghost' and the story is growing.

The Phantom of the Opera: Gaston Leroux

'It's the ghost!' And she locked the door.

Sorelli's dressing-room was fitted up with official, commonplace elegance. A pier-glass, a sofa, a dressing-table and a cupboard or two provided the necessary furniture. On the walls hung a few engravings, relics of the mother, who had known the glories of the old Opera in the Rue le Peletier: portraits of Vestris, Gardel, Dupont, Bigottini. But the room seemed a palace to the brats of the **corps de ballet**, who were lodged in common dressing-rooms where they spent their time singing, quarrelling, smacking the dressers and hair-dressers and buying one another glasses of cassis, beer, or even rum, until the call-boy's bell rang.

Sorelli was very superstitious. She shuddered when she heard little Jammes speak of the ghost, called her a 'silly little fool' and then, as she was the first to believe in ghosts in general, and the Opera ghost in particular, at once asked for details:

'Have you seen him?'

'As plainly as I see you now!' said little Jammes, whose legs were giving way beneath her, and she dropped with a moan into a chair.

Thereupon little Giry – the girl with eyes black as **sloes**, hair black as ink, a swarthy complexion and a poor little skin stretched over poor little bones – little Giry added:

'If that's the ghost, he's very ugly!'

'Oh, yes!' cried the chorus of ballet-girls.

And they all began to talk together. The ghost had appeared to them in the shape of a gentleman in dress-clothes, who had suddenly

stood before them in the passage, without their knowing where he came from. He seemed to have come straight through the wall.

'Pooh!' said one of them, who had more or less kept her head. 'You see the ghost everywhere!'

30 And it was true. For several months, there had been nothing
discussed at the Opera but this ghost in dress-clothes who stalked
about the building, from top to bottom, like a shadow, who spoke
to nobody, to whom nobody dared speak and who vanished as
soon as he was seen, no one knowing how or where. As became a
35 real ghost, he made no noise in walking. People began by laughing
and making fun of this spectre dressed like a man of fashion or
an undertaker; but the ghost legend soon swelled to enormous
proportions among the corps de ballet. All the girls pretended to
have met this supernatural being more or less often. And those who
40 laughed the loudest were not the most at ease. When he did not
show himself, he betrayed his presence or his passing by accident,
comic or serious, for which the general superstition held him
responsible. Had any one met with a fall, or suffered a practical joke
at the hands of one of the other girls, or lost a powderpuff, it was at
45 once the fault of the ghost, of the Opera ghost.

After all, who had seen him? You meet so many men in dress-clothes at the Opera who are not ghosts. But this dress-suit had a peculiarity of its own. It covered a skeleton. At least, so the ballet-girls said. And, of course, it had a death's head.

Sloes – a kind of berry, fruit

Corps de ballet – a group of ballet dancers who perform ensemble roles

Section A: Question 1

The Facts

Worth: 4 marks

Suggested time spent: 4 minutes

You will be tested on AO1:

- identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas;
- select and synthesise evidence from different texts.

What will I need to do?

- Choose **one** answer for each question.
- Shade the **circle** in the box of the one that you think is **correct**.
- Choose a maximum of **one** answer for each question.
- If you make an error cross out the **whole box**.
- If you change your mind and require an answer that has been crossed out, then draw a circle around the box.

Top tip:

- Make sure you scan the text again to ensure you have the right answer. Some of the options may seem plausible but may be red herrings!

Sample Question

1. Read the source again from lines 1 to 10.

1.1. Why does little Jammes lock the door?

The dressing room is full

She has seen a ghost

She wants to drink her rum in secret

[1 mark]

1.2. What can be found in Sorelli's dressing room?

A sofa, a dressing table and a cupboard

A sofa, a chair and a sink

A pier-glass, a wardrobe and a sink

[1 mark]

1.3. How did Sorelli react to little Jammes declaration?

She unlocked the door

She told Jammes not to talk about it

She shuddered and asked for more details

[1 mark]

1.4. What was little Jammes reaction to the ghost?

She locked the door

She froze in terror

She ran away

[1 mark]

Section A: Question 2

The Facts

Worth: 8 marks

Suggested time spent: 8 minutes

You will be tested on AO2:

- explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.

What will I need to do?

Identify and analyse how the writer uses words, phrases, and rhetorical devices to create particular effects. You will need to quote from the text directly and you will need to explain how the quotations you have chosen make your points.

Top tips:

- Make sure you refer to language throughout your answer – try to use the vocabulary you have learned to discuss literary techniques.
- Highlight the text words or phrases you think you may use in your answer.
- Remember to use short, precise quotations from the text.
- It's not enough to just identify the techniques being used – you must explain **how** they are effective.

Sample Question

2. Look in detail at this extract:

“If that’s the ghost, he’s very ugly!”

“Oh, yes!” cried the chorus of ballet-girls.

And they all began to talk together. The ghost had appeared to them in the shape of a gentleman in dress-clothes, who had suddenly stood before them in the passage, without their knowing where he came from. He seemed to have come straight through the wall.

“Pooh!” said one of them, who had more or less kept her head. “You see the ghost everywhere!”

And it was true. For several months, there had been nothing discussed at the Opera but this ghost in dress-clothes who stalked about the building, from top to bottom, like a shadow, who spoke to nobody, to whom nobody dared speak and who vanished as soon as he was seen, no one knowing how or where. As became a real ghost, he made no noise in walking. People began by laughing and making fun of this spectre dressed like a man of fashion or an undertaker; but the ghost legend soon swelled to enormous proportions among the corps de ballet. All the girls pretended to have met this supernatural being more or less often. And those who laughed the loudest were not the most at ease. When he did not show himself, he betrayed his presence or his passing by accident, comic or serious, for which the general superstition held him responsible. Had any one met with a fall, or suffered a practical joke at the hands of one of the other girls, or lost a powderpuff, it was at once the fault of the ghost, of the Opera ghost.

How does the writer use language to create a sense of the mystery surrounding the ghost in this section of the story?

You could include the writer's choice of:

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

Sample Answer

Read the following partial answer to the sample question. Do you think it is correct? If not, how would you change it?

The extract shows us a lot about the ghost. Immediately, we are given the information that the girls think he is 'ugly'. This lends an air of the gothic to the ghost, making him seem otherworldly. A large group of girls seem to have seen the ghost. The author mentions that the ghost 'appeared' and seems to have come through the wall, giving him a greater aura of mystery.

The word 'stalked' implies that the 'ghost' is hunting something or someone and the story of the ghost is called a 'legend', showing that it is important among the ballet girls.

Word Bank

The following phrases may be useful when writing your answer:

- The writer/narrator uses / refers to / employs...
- The writer/narrator builds / creates / develops...
- The writer/narrator creates a mood / atmosphere / sense / feeling of...
- The use of simile / metaphor / personification creates a sense of...

Section A: Question 3

The Facts

Worth: 8 marks

Suggested time spent: 8 minutes

You will be tested on AO2:

- explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support your views.

What will I need to do?

Identify and analyse how the writer uses structural devices to create particular effects. You will need to quote from the text directly and you will need to explain how the quotations you have chosen make your points. Structural features can be:

- whole text: eg. beginnings / endings / perspective shifts;
- paragraph level: eg. topic change / aspects of cohesion;
- sentence level when they contribute to the whole structure.

Top tips:

- Make sure you refer to elements of structure throughout your answer – these include the form and type of sentences, the way the story and plot are put together and where and how certain types of words are used.
- Use the line references to get to the appropriate piece of text quickly.
- Highlight on the text words or phrases you think you may use in your answer.
- Remember to use short, precise quotations from the text.
- It's not enough to just identify the techniques being used – you must explain **how** they are effective.

Sample Question

This question refers to the text on pages 2 and 3.

3. Answer the following question using the whole source.

This text comes from an early point in the novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest the reader in the ghost?

You could write about:

- how the reader's interest develops in the ghost from beginning to end;
- how the writer uses structure to create an effect;
- the writer's use of structural features such as perspective, use of dialogue and changes of focus.

Sample Answer

Read the following partial answer to the sample question. What is good about it, and what needs improvement? Can you write a better answer?

The writer opens with an exclamation from one of the girls about the ghost. The reader wants to continue learning about the ghost and is excited to read on. The writer uses lots of quick exclamatory statements by the girls to show their excitement about the appearance of the ghost. The fact that the girls 'all begin to talk together' shows that they are excited by news of the ghost.

Section A: Question 4

The Facts

Worth: 20 marks

Suggested time spent: 20 minutes

You will be tested on AO4:

- evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.

What will I need to do?

Evaluate how successful the writer has been throughout a section of the text. This will involve referring to language and structural devices the writer uses, but you will also need to show how the writer builds an effect over the course of the piece. Your answer will need to have an overview of the text supplied, as well as an understanding of specific details. You will need to give a personal opinion. You will need to use quotations in your answer.

- Use specific quotations from the text.
- Make sure you consider the question. This will be a statement giving an impression of the text. You must explain how and why you agree and / or disagree with this impression.
- Think about how the text changes throughout the section specified – how does the author take the reader on an emotional or psychological journey?
- Remember to refer to the reader – what impression does the author make on them?
- Make sure your answer is personal – you are offering a judgement – but it must be firmly backed up by the text.
- Don't criticise the author too much – the text is likely to be regarded as a classic of English literature!

Sample Answer

Read the following partial answer to the sample question. What is good about it, and what needs improvement? Can you write a better answer?

The ghost seems to have the characteristics of a 'real' ghost. The writer offers details such as, 'he seemed to have come straight through the wall' and 'he made no noise in walking.' These details are presented as being from the perspective of the girls giving the impression that they firmly believe they have seen a ghost.

However, some of the ballet corps are simply not sure. This is shown by the nervous reactions of those who try to shrug off the idea of the ghost's existence: 'those who laughed the loudest were not the most at ease.'

Word Bank

The following phrases may be useful when writing your answer:

- The writer/narrator uses / refers to / employs...
- The writer/narrator builds / creates / develops...
- The writer/narrator creates a mood / atmosphere / sense / feeling of...
- The reader is given the impression that...
- This is effective because...
- This creates a feeling of... by...

Section B: Question 5

The Facts

Worth: 40 marks

Suggested time spent: 40 minutes

You will be tested on AO5 (24 marks):

- communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences;
- organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.

You will be tested on AO6 (16 marks):

- use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

What will I need to do?

Write an engaging, imaginative fiction piece which could be based on your real experiences or entirely made up. It should be appropriate to the purpose, audience and form stated in the task. One of the tasks will include an image which you will be asked to use as a stimulus for your piece.

Top tips:

- Make sure your piece is carefully structured – take two minutes to plan it first.
- Use a wide range of vocabulary, sentence structures and literary devices – this is your opportunity to show off!
- Make sure you have read the question carefully – it's important that your writing fits the task given.
- Take great care with spelling, punctuation and grammar – 16 marks are available for technical accuracy.

Sample Answer

Read the following task. What is good about it, and what needs improvement? Can you write a better piece?

As soon as I entered the living room I knew something was wrong. A man sat in my chair, staring back at me as I stood in the doorway. He was real scarey and I worried that he might jump out of the seat and atack me. His hands were in black gloves and he actally had black on all over. I never seen him before.

Suddenly he jumped off the chair and come towards me. The door crashed shut behind me because the whind caught it as he ran at me. I stumbled and fell almost over him. His hands reached out to touch me and I pulled back away from him. His face wasn't actually there – there was a mask in place of his face.

I tried to scream but I couldn't get the sound out. My voice was croaky like a frog's. 'Help!', I shouted but hardly any sound came out.

Suddenly the door rattled behind me. My mum called threw the door. Are you in there? I herd a noise. Are you okay.

I turnd back round and looked at the man. Surprise! He was'nt their any more. Where had he gone? He had disappeared!

Word Bank

Try including some of the following literary techniques in your writing:

Alliteration

Juxtaposition

Sibilance

Emotive language

Metaphor

Simile

Irony

Onomatopoeia

Personification

Final Tips

- When you know the time of your exam, work out what the timings for each question will be. For example, if the exam begins at 1.30pm:

Reading the text:	1.30pm
Question 1:	1.45pm
Question 2:	1.49pm
Question 3:	1.57pm
Question 4:	2.05pm
Question 5/6:	2.25pm
Checking your work:	3.05pm
End of exam:	3.15pm

- If you miss your timings, don't panic. Move to the next question quickly – you can always return to the previous one if you have time at the end.
- Read the text provided carefully. If you're unsure of what some of the words mean, try to work out their meanings by looking at their context in the sentence.
- Remember to read for implied meaning, as well as surface meaning.
- Read the questions very carefully. If need be, underline key words so you are sure what you are being asked.
- Look at the marks available and adapt your response accordingly. There is no point writing two pages for an eight mark question and half a page for a twenty mark question.
- Write on your copy of the text if you want to. This is your exam paper – annotate and highlight as you need.
- Keep quotations short – a few words at most.

- Try to integrate quotations into your sentences. e.g.
 - The narrator dislikes the man's coat. He says it is 'ghastly'.
 - The narrator dislikes the man's 'ghastly' coat.
- Never criticise an author. You can evaluate their work, using evidence from the text, but do not make sweeping statements about whether you personally like or dislike the text.
- Plan your written task – a spider diagram, list or flow chart will help you to create cohesion in your writing.
- Pay attention to your spelling, punctuation and grammar. This is worth 16 marks in Section B of the exam. Don't make silly mistakes, such as forgetting to use capital letters correctly.
- Check your work carefully when you have finished. Use every minute you have!

Believe in yourself.
You are prepared and
you can do this!



**BEYOND
REVISION**
GCSE ENGLISH