



Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

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Forename(s)

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Candidate signature

\_\_\_\_\_

I declare this is my own work.

# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Tuesday 4 November 2025

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** – provided as a separate insert.

### Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

| For Examiner's Use |      |
|--------------------|------|
| Question           | Mark |
| 1                  |      |
| 2                  |      |
| 3                  |      |
| 4                  |      |
| 5                  |      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       |      |



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**Section A: Reading**

Answer **all** questions in this section.  
You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | 1 |
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Read again the first part of the source, from **lines 1 to 6**.

List **four** things about the classroom from this part of the source.

**[4 marks]**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

|   |
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| 4 |
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I can still hear the tired, disillusioned voice of Herr Zimmermann, who was condemned to teaching for life and had accepted his fate with sad resignation. He was a yellow-faced man, whose hair, moustache and sharply pointed beard were all tinged with grey. He looked out at the world through glasses on the tip of his nose with the expression of a mongrel dog in search of food. Though he was probably not more than fifty years old, to us he seemed to be eighty. We despised him because he was kind and gentle and because he had a poor man's smell – his two-roomed flat probably had no bath – and he was dressed in a much patched, shiny, greenish suit which he wore during the autumn and the long, winter months (he had a second suit for spring and summer).

You could include the writer's choice of:

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

**[8 marks]**

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

**Turn over ►**



**[8 marks]**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

8

**Turn over ►**



[illegible]



4

- [20 marks]**

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

**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 newspaper is running a creative writing competition. The best entries will be published.

**Either**

Write a description of a classroom, as suggested by this picture:



**or**

Write a story called 'The Newcomer'.

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

**Turn over ►**



[illegible]

[illegible]

1 5

[illegible]



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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outside the  
box*

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**



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outside the  
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