

New  
Specification



Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2018

# English Language

Unit 1

Writing for Purpose and  
Audience and Reading to  
Access Non-fiction and Media  
Texts



[GEN11]

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**THURSDAY 31 MAY, MORNING**

## TIME

1 hour 45 minutes.

## INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

**You must complete the tasks in the spaces provided. If needed, you can ask for more sheets to finish your responses.**

**Do not write outside the boxed area on each page or on blank pages.**

Complete **all** the tasks: the **one task** in **Section A** and the **four tasks** in **Section B**.

## INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

**Section A** (Writing) **One task** marked out of **87 marks**. Spend **55 minutes** on this section.

**Section B** (Reading) **Four tasks** marked out of **63 marks**. Spend **50 minutes** on this section.

Pay attention to the suggested timings shown at the beginning of each task; these will enable you to complete all the tasks within the time limit.

Figures in brackets printed down the right-hand side of pages indicate the marks awarded to each task.

Examiners can only credit what they can read. Keep your work legible.

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## Section A: Writing for Purpose and Audience

One task: 55 minutes. Mark allocation: 87 marks

Up to **57 marks** are available for an **organised and engaging** piece of writing that **matches form and purpose with audience**.

Up to **30 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentence structures** and **accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar**.

Write a **speech for your classmates persuading them to agree** with your views on the following issue:

**“Young people today are too worried about their body image.”**

**[87]**

You are advised to spend:

- **15 minutes** thinking and planning your response
- **30 minutes** writing the speech
- **10 minutes** checking your writing

**Planning Space:**









## Section B: Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts

Four tasks: 50 minutes. Mark allocation: 63 marks

### Reading Non-Fiction

Tasks 2 and 3 are based on extracts from a travel writing article. The writer has been to an active volcano in Iceland.

**Task 2:** Spend 15 minutes on this task.

**Read the text below where the writer describes his attempt to reach the top of the volcano. Explain how he has presented this in a way that engages his readers.**

I was standing in the middle of the night in a deep black canyon with three companions, straining to hear the volcano whisper its menace. Above us, a blizzard had smothered the mountain and blotted out the violent red glow I had seen from a plane three days before. We had tried to get up the 5,466ft volcano in our guide's super-jeep but were defeated by the weather. We were aware of the occasional muffled explosion and the heavy, sulphurous stench of the beast.

I asked our guide what he would do if the mountain exploded like it had in the winter of 1821. He rubbed his chin and concluded that we would not make it. The only chance would be to leave the jeep to escape the flash flood of rocks, new lava, ice, mud and water. But then we would have the volcanic ash to deal with, to say nothing of the lightning that usually accompanies a major eruption.

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**Task 3:** Spend **10 minutes** on this task.

The writer goes on to present his thoughts and feelings after the same volcano he visited had erupted.

**Read the text below where the writer is thinking about his increased respect for the power of nature.**

**In your own words, write down two reasons for this increased respect: select one reason from each paragraph. Present two pieces of supporting evidence for each reason.**

Pretty much everything our guide had predicted has now happened. The mountain has changed shape. Thousands of square miles are covered in ash. All the local farms and settlements have been evacuated; the sheep and stocky Iceland horses rounded up and moved away to pastures in the north and east. The road where I stood has been swept away by the melting glacier. This volcanic eruption will seriously disrupt life in Iceland for a long time.

Previously, our guide had been part of a team searching for three Icelandic volcano experts who had been trapped in a storm. He found the body of one man who had gone looking for a phone signal and perished in the cold. His female companion, who had left the vehicle to find him, also died. A second woman, who had stayed in their jeep, was clinging to life when the team got to her. In Iceland you become aware of nature's power to dispose of life.

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**BEGIN RESPONSES ON NEXT PAGE**





**(a) First reason:**

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[4]

**(b) Two pieces of supporting evidence:**

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[2]

**(c) Second reason:**

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[4]

**(d) Two pieces of supporting evidence:**

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[2]

**[Turn over**



## Reading Media Texts

Tasks 4 and 5 are based on a book cover.

**Task 4:** Spend **17 minutes** on this task.

Below is some of the text used on the book cover of the novel “Shadow” by Michael Morpurgo.

**Read the text and explain how language has been used to develop a sense that this book would be interesting and exciting to read. Present supporting evidence.**

Never have a boy and his mother needed a friend more than when a dog, a Springer Spaniel, appears – thin and war-ravaged – in the mouth of their Afghan cave, where they struggle to survive in a world of poverty, corruption and brutality. Nursed back to health by the boy Aman, the dog becomes a constant companion, a shadow, and that’s what Aman decides to call her.

But life in Afghanistan becomes more dangerous by the moment. Eventually, Aman, his mother and Shadow find the courage to set out on the treacherous journey from war-torn Afghanistan to the safety of a relative’s home in Manchester, England.

Aman says: *“This dog is not like other dogs. She is more like a friend than a dog, a friendly shadow that does not want to leave us. You never lose your shadow.”*

But how far can Shadow lead them? And in this terrifying new world, is anywhere really safe...?

*Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd © 2011, Michael Morpurgo*

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**Task 5:** Spend **8 minutes** on this task.

Study the front cover of the book “Shadow” below.

Select **two presentational features** used in this cover to make this book appealing to the reader. Explain the intended effect of these two presentational features on the reader.



*Reprinted by permission of HarperCollins Publishers Ltd © 2011, Michael Morpurgo*

**BEGIN RESPONSES ON NEXT PAGE**





**(a) First presentational feature:**

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**(b) Explanation:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [4]

**(c) Second presentational feature:**

\_\_\_\_\_ [1]

**(d) Explanation:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ [4]

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