



General Certificate of Secondary Education  
Summer 2025

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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## English Language

Unit 1

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

[GEN11]

**WEDNESDAY 7 MAY, MORNING**

**MV18**

### Time

1 hour 45 minutes, plus your additional time allowance.

### 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.**

**Do not write on blank pages.**

Complete in **black ink only**. **Do not write with a gel pen.**

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

If needed, you can ask for Supplementary Answer Sheets.

## 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 at the end of each task indicate the marks available.

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

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**(Questions start overleaf)**

## Section A: Writing for Purpose and Audience

**Task 1: Spend 55 minutes on your response.**

**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 question:

**“Is homework still necessary for students today?”**

You are advised to spend:

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

**Planning space:**







## **Section B: Reading Non-fiction and Media Texts**

**Four tasks: 50 minutes. Mark allocation: 63 marks**

### **Reading Non-fiction**

**Tasks 2 and 3** are based on a newspaper article about the cheese toastie.

**Task 2:** Spend **15 minutes** on this task. Total **21 marks**

**Read the text below where the writer expresses his enthusiasm for the cheese toastie.**

**Explain how the writer has presented this in a way that engages his readers' interest. Support your comments with evidence.**

Toast, like the colour of a Strictly Come Dancing contestant's tan, warmly embraces soft, oozy butter and cheese. I don't deny it has probably added to my cholesterol level, but it's worth it – for there is no finer food in the universe than the cheese toastie.

Where did the toastie originate? One possible theory is that it can be traced back to when coal miners carried their sandwiches in metal lunchboxes. Often there was cheese in those sandwiches. Come lunchtime, the cheese would have been melted by the heat in the mines and the bread become slightly toasted.

I am grateful for the simple joys of the toastie maker. It is something of a family heirloom and has a medieval aspect to it – weighing a ton and with the breadcrumbs of three generations in its jaws. Mr Toastie has been with us through thick and thin,



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**Task 3:** Spend **10 minutes** on your response. Total **12 marks**

In this part of the article, the writer explains why he thinks toasties are appealing.

**Read the text below. In your own words, write down two reasons why the writer thinks toasties are appealing: one reason from each paragraph.**

**For each reason present two pieces of supporting evidence.**

In these financially difficult times, the toastie gives joy but costs little. No toastie maker? No problem. It can be heated in a toaster, using a handy toaster bag which keeps all the cheese from spilling out. It can be inexpensive. Although you might be charged £12.50 for a toastie in London, there's no need to break the bank – make it at home for about 50p.

It is familiar and flexible: a saviour when I need something warm. It can be enhanced even when processed cheese, all flimsy and plastic, is added. It can be jazzed-up with pickles or doused in ketchup to become a scrumptious treat. Alternatively, it can be elevated into a mouth-watering delicacy with Brie and cranberry. The toastie is the ultimate snack because its adaptability means that there is a never-ending list of possibilities to be relished.

**(a)** Reason from paragraph one: [4 marks]

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**(b)** Two pieces of supporting evidence from paragraph one:  
[2 marks]

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**(c)** Reason from paragraph two: [4 marks]

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**(d)** Two pieces of supporting evidence from paragraph two:  
[2 marks]

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## Reading Media Texts

**Tasks 4 and 5** are based on the DVD cover for “Hugo”.

**Task 4:** Spend **17 minutes** on this task. Total **20 marks**

**Read the text below. Explain how language has been used to develop a sense that this DVD would be exciting to watch. Present evidence to support your comments.**

Orphaned, alone and scared, in the heart of bustling 1930s Paris, young Hugo spends his time evading capture by the intimidating station inspector and fixing the station clocks in secrecy. Amid gears, pulleys and broken clocks, Hugo longs for a better life.

With the help of his only friend, Isabelle, Hugo embarks on a quest to fix the broken pieces of his past and unearth the key to his destiny.

Racing against time, and trying to stay one step ahead of the inspector, Hugo and Isabelle discover a hidden world within the walls of the train station – a mysterious place of imagination and intrigue. Will Hugo find the answers he seeks?

Be captivated, be inspired and let your heart take flight as you embark on this cinematic adventure of a lifetime. Hugo’s spellbinding story awaits. Time is ticking so don’t miss your chance to share in this breathtaking epic!

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**Task 5: Spend 8 minutes** on this task. **Total 10 marks**

Study the DVD cover below.

**Select two examples of presentational features used in this DVD cover to make it appealing to the audience. Explain the intended effect of these two presentational features.**

DVD cover removed due to copyright  
find image on link below

Source: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0970179/mediaviewer/rm359511808/>

**(a)** First example of a presentational feature: [1 mark]

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**(b)** Intended effect on the audience: [4 marks]

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**(c)** Second example of a presentational feature: [1 mark]

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**(d)** Intended effect on the audience: [4 marks]

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**This is the end of the question paper**

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## SOURCES

Tasks 2 and 3 . . . © Adapted from "*When earning a crust gets harder, we need the comfort and strength of the very British toastie*" |  
Max Wallis | *Guardian News Media Ltd*  
Task 4 . . . *Examiner*  
Task 5 . . . <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0970179/mediaviewer/rm359511808/>

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