



General Certificate of Secondary Education
November 2021

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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English Language

Unit 4

Personal or Creative Writing
and Reading Literary and
Non-Fiction Texts



[GEN41]

GEN41

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER, 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.

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

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

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

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

Section A (Writing) **One task** marked out of **88 marks**. Spend **55 minutes** on this section.

Section B (Reading) **Three tasks** marked out of **62 marks**. Spend **50 minutes** on this section.

This paper contains an insert for use with Task 2.

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.



Section A: Personal or Creative Writing

Task 1: Spend 55 minutes on your response. **Mark Allocation: 88 marks**

Up to **58 marks** are available for an **organised** piece of personal or creative writing that matches **form with purpose to engage the specified audience**.

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

Complete only **one** task.

Either

- (a) **Personal writing: Write an essay for the examiner about the best advice you have ever been given.**

Or

- (b) **Creative writing: Write an essay for a creative writing competition. The audience is young people. Base your essay on the picture below. You may provide your own title.**





You are advised to spend:

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

Planning Space:

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16GEN4105



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[88]

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Reading Non-Fiction

Tasks 3 and 4 are based on two extracts from a newspaper article:

“SAVE OUR YOUNG FROM SINKING IN FAST-FOOD SWAMPS.”

Task 3: Spend **12 minutes** on this task. Total for this task **15 marks**.

The text below is the beginning of the article.

Explain how the writer has gained and held the interest of the reader.

Removed due to Copyright reasons

Adapted from an article in The Daily Mail by Sarah Vine



Source:

Task 1 photo.....© Getty Images

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Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

November 2021

English Language

**Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and
Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts**

[GEN41]

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER, MORNING

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Text A

The first thing I notice is that my blanket is gone. The last of my nightly rituals is to pull it all the way to my chin, and it never falls away, no matter what nightmares I wrestle before I wake.

But something else is wrong. I try to move. Though I don't seem to be paralysed, my arms are pinned tightly to my sides. My brain is slow. The horror saturates me gradually. I struggle, twist to the left and free one arm.

Reaching up, my trembling hand gets only a few inches before my fingers touch cool stone. I blink. My lashes spider-touch my cheeks, and then that touch is gone, so my eyes must be open. The dull, compressed darkness is so complete that I cannot see my shaking hand, even as I bend my elbow and press my fingers against my right eye, and then my left – gently, very gently – to make certain both still rest in their sockets.

My eyes are intact. But the relief fades as I recognise the shape of my prison, the feel of the thin padding beneath me, the slope of the cool stone. The plush lining...

I'm trapped. What is that sound? Is someone here? No, it's me breathing deeply and using precious air...

I throw back my head and scream. Somewhere in the house above there is one who hears me. The one who imprisoned me.

*Adapted from © The Fall by Bethany Griffin. (ISBN: 978-0062107862)
Published by Greenwillow Books; Reprint edition (6 Oct. 2015)*

Text B

My eyes opened. I was in a strange place.

A mist pressed close, all around me, so close that it was more like a blanket than a fog. The mist was the colour of yellow teeth and it moved without a breath of breeze, moved as if it had a will.

The mist swirled slowly, sensuously, and it touched me. I don't mean that it was merely near to me and therefore inevitably touched me. I mean it *touched* me. It crept up the sleeves of my sweater, persistent in its path. Fingerless, it touched me. Eyeless, it gazed at me. It heard the beating of my heart and swept in and out of my mouth with each quick and shallow breath.

The mist spoke to me, wordless, soundless, and yet so that I understood, and it said, *Shiver*.

I shivered, and goose bumps rose on the inside of my arms and on my belly, and the mist laughed as silently as it had commanded me.

I called out, "Mum!"

But the mist would have none of that. It took my word, stopped it, flattened it, made a mockery of it and echoed it back to me.

I felt something prickling and tickling the side of my face and turned my head to see I was lying in grass of such a colour that it could never have known spring. It was the grey-green of bread mould, the colour of decayed life. I could see only the nearest stalks. Those pressed closest to my face.

How had I come to be here? And where was here?

*Adapted from © Messenger of Fear by Michael Grant. (ISBN: 978-1405265171)
Published by Electric Monkey; UK ed. edition (16 April 2015)*