



Pearson
Edexcel

GCSE (9-1) English Language

2018 examination
top tips



GCSE English Language - Paper 1 (1EN0/01) Summary

Based on their performance on the paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- read the passage in Section A very carefully, identifying the different ways in which the writer has tried to engage you as the reader
- pay particular attention to the opening and closing of the text as these are important points for any writer and they will help you to see how the writer has shaped their text to initially gain the interest of the reader and then to leave them at a particular point
- On Q3, you must try to cover points on both language and structure within the space you have been given and with a time allocation that is appropriate to the six marks the question offers. There is no need for an introduction or conclusion on this question
- on Q4, try to do more than identify the different techniques that have been used by the writer. You should explain your ideas on how successful you feel the writer has been
- whichever writing question you choose, always think about your reader, what you want them to understand and how you want them to react at different parts of your writing; then choose the best words, phrases or techniques available to you to achieve those effects
- think carefully about how you will begin to write so that it is imaginative and engaging for your reader from the very start. If you are telling a true story it is more important to write clearly and showing your writing skills than it is to stick to the real story as it happened
- as you begin to write, you should know how you will end this piece of writing. This will help you to write in a manner that is cohesive and coherent for your reader
- take care throughout with accuracy of all sorts: spelling, punctuation and grammar
- keep a close eye on the time during the examination and use the number of marks available for each question as an indication of how long you should spend answering each question. If you have time left at the end you should check your work carefully.

GCSE English Language - Paper 2 (1EN0/02) Summary

Based on their performance on the paper, candidates are offered the following advice:

- for the AO2 (language and structure) questions, make sure you are offering ideas about how language is used. For Q2 many of you were able to give an example, but sometimes you did not offer a comment about how language was used. For Q5 the example is given for you, so read the example and talk about how language is used rather than selecting another example from it
- for Q3, consider the way Text 1 has tried to engage and interest you as the reader. You could pay particular attention to the opening and closing of the whole text as these are important points for any writer – this is different to Paper 1 where only a certain section is required. The opening and closing of the text will help you to see how the writer has shaped their text to initially gain the interest of the reader, and then how the closing comment leaves them at a particular point
- in Q3 try to cover points on both language and structure, commenting on the different techniques that have been used by the writer and how they engage and interest the reader
- for your evaluations, make sure you are thinking about which elements from SITE are useful for the text you have read, and use evaluative vocabulary when you are commenting. You do not need to comment on language and structure here unless this supports your evaluation. For example, you can think about the audience and purpose of the text and whether it would be successful for readers or not. Link this specifically to the question, avoid being vague and saying things like 'the writer does this successfully'
- for Q7(a) always comment on similarities. You can comment on differences in Q7(b). There are only 6 marks for Q7(a) so be brief and succinct here. In Q7(b) link comparisons back to ideas of the writers and their perspectives
- when you are writing, always think about your reader, what information and ideas you want to develop and how you want the reader to react at different parts of your writing; then choose the best words, phrases or techniques available to you to achieve those effects
- think carefully about how you will begin to write so that it is engaging for your reader from the very start
- as you begin to write, know where you will end. This will help you to write in a manner that is cohesive and coherent for your reader
- take care throughout with accuracy: spelling, punctuation and grammar
- in writing, focus on crafting and organisation whatever the nature of the task
- be ambitious in your structure, vocabulary and range of ideas and try to be creative and original
- use the number of marks available for each question as an indication of how long you should spend answering each question.