



Pearson
Edexcel

International GCSE English Language B

Additional guidance on the writing tasks
for International GCSE English Language B



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Guidance on which writing types have been set (sample assessment materials to the November 2023 exam series)

You can access a full [summary of all questions set](#) (Edexcel Online login required for the most recent paper summary).

Question 8, Section B text types (Reading and Writing) which have been set:

- Article for a school or college magazine, website
- Speech/talk to peers
- Contribution to a website
- Letter

The questions set may refer to a digital location for the texts, such as a website. This does not impact on the expected format of the writing.

Questions 9-11, Section C stimuli (every paper has these 3 options)

- Quote plus: 'discuss' or 'to what extent do you agree with'
- Write a story (true or imaginary) entitled ...
- Describe a: place, hobby, journey, exciting time, experience, object, time when, picture, memorable person, helpful person, favourite time of year, gift, celebration, walk, festival, role model. (These are examples from the papers set sample assessment materials to November 2023).

This document provides additional reassurance and guidance on the expected features of each form for Section B, addressing some frequently asked questions.



Format and structuring of texts

For each text type, students should think about the **audience**, **form** and **purpose** where named in the question (especially for question 8) and plan a response which addresses those.

The response should be written in continuous prose, and students should not, for example, for question 8 attempt to reproduce graphically the appearance of a newspaper article using a larger font headline, images or columns. Students should use linguistic features (for example, paragraphs, different sentence types, discourse markers and content) to structure their writing in effectively sequenced paragraphs. There should be clear organisation and structure with an introduction, development of points and a conclusion, whichever text type is being written.

For some text types, predominantly an article or a contribution to a website, it may be appropriate to make sparing use of bullet points in addition to continuous prose. However, for most tasks, structuring writing in sentences and paragraphs is the norm.

The mark scheme for each question paper gives an outline of the expected form of responses. Teachers and students can look back over past mark schemes to see the comments for each text type set. Examiners emphasise in each mark scheme that students may use 'a range of approaches' when responding to the question, indicating that they will accept any reasonable response to the question set.



Text type	Notes
Article	<p>Students may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Headline/title, strapline, sub-headings if appropriate. ● An introductory (overview) paragraph containing the whole article in a nutshell. ● Effectively/fluent sequenced paragraphs explaining each aspect of the article in more detail. <p>Not required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Columns, images, or by-line.

Text type	Notes
Letter	<p>Students may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An appropriate initial greeting and letter ending, according to the formality of the context named in the question ('Dear Sir/Madam' with 'Yours faithfully'; 'Dear Ms Prendergast' with 'Yours sincerely') or for informal/peer audiences ('Dear Jamal' with 'Best wishes, Sam'). ● Other typical formulations such as 'I look forward to hearing from you' for letters of application or requests for action from a headteacher, for example. ● A date as this is a usual feature of a handwritten letter. <p>Not required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Addresses of sender or recipient ● Any special layout with addresses.

Text type	Notes
Text for a speech/talk	<p>Students may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A suitable opening which makes clear that an audience is being addressed. ● A suitable closing formulation to flag to the audience that the speech/talk is ending. <p>No other special features are expected. Students should not format their writing as a script.</p>

Text type	Notes
Contribution to a website	<p>Students may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present some information using bullet points. ● Make use of sub-headings <p>No other special features are expected.</p>