

**YEAR 11**

Writing for Top Marks

Year 11, pitched at Pearson Edexcel GCSE English Language. Harder extracts and full exam thinking: how the paper works, the skills on the text, then top-band judgement. Both papers end with a 40-mark writing task. This is how to lift it.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

A. Warm-up

Plan, write, then check. Every minute counts.

- 1 What should the last five minutes of a writing task be for?
 - (a) Starting a new paragraph
 - (b) Proofreading for errors
 - (c) Rewriting the plan
 - (d) Counting words
- 2 Which plan is most useful?
 - (a) Writing the whole answer twice
 - (b) No plan at all
 - (c) Five brief paragraph points, with the ending decided in advance
 - (d) A list of fancy words only
- 3 Which is the most ambitious vocabulary?
 - (a) The silence was really quiet.
 - (b) It was very silent.
 - (c) There was no noise.
 - (d) The silence was oppressive.

- 4 Which uses a semicolon correctly?
- (a) The storm had passed; the damage remained.
 - (b) The storm; had passed the damage remained.
 - (c) Because the storm had passed; the damage remained.
 - (d) The storm had; passed the damage remained.
-

- 5 Which connective shows cause and effect?
- (a) However,
 - (b) Consequently,
 - (c) Meanwhile,
 - (d) For example,
-

B. Where you should be now

Openings, shifts and endings are where marks are won.

- 6 Which opening sentence is most original?
- (a) It was a normal day.
 - (b) I am going to tell you a story.
 - (c) My grandmother kept her secrets in biscuit tins.
 - (d) Once upon a time there was a girl.
-
- 7 Which is an effective structural shift?
- (a) Repeating the first paragraph
 - (b) Ending mid-sentence
 - (c) Listing the characters
 - (d) From a wide view of a crowded beach to one child's abandoned sandal
-
- 8 Which uses sentence structure for effect?
- (a) Waves. Endless waves, rolling in from a horizon that never came closer.
 - (b) There were waves.
 - (c) The waves were waves.
 - (d) Waves came and went and came.
-

- 9 Which opening hooks the reader of an article?
- (a) This article is about a town.
 - (b) Imagine a town where nobody under twenty has anywhere to go after school.
 - (c) I am writing this article.
 - (d) Towns are places.
-

- 10 Which closing line has the strongest impact?
- (a) That is the end.
 - (b) Then I went to bed.
 - (c) And so the house waited, as it always had, for someone to come home.
 - (d) So that was the house.
-

- 11 Which verb is most precise?
- (a) The car went off the road.
 - (b) The car moved off the road.
 - (c) The car got off the road.
 - (d) The car careered off the road.
-

C. Stretch

Control and originality together.

- 12 Which uses an **extended metaphor**?
- (a) The city was a beast: its streets were veins, its traffic a restless pulse.
 - (b) The city was big.
 - (c) The city was like a city.
 - (d) The city was busy and loud.
-
- 13 Which is most concise and controlled?
- (a) She sat down because she was exhausted and tired and needed to sit down.
 - (b) Exhausted, she sat down.
 - (c) She was exhausted so she sat down because she was tired.
 - (d) Sitting down, she sat, exhausted, down.
-

- 14 Which rhetorical question works best in an article?
- (a) Are libraries a thing?
 - (b) What is a library?
 - (c) If we will not protect our libraries, who will?
 - (d) Do you like books or not?
-

- 15 Which is correct?
- (a) Me and him went to the shop.
 - (b) Him and me went to the shop.
 - (c) Him and I went to the shop.
 - (d) He and I went to the shop.
-

- 16 Which suits a formal letter?
- (a) I would be grateful if you could consider this proposal.
 - (b) Please sort this out asap.
 - (c) Can you just do it?
 - (d) This proposal is well good.
-