Year 10 | English Creative Writing

IGCSE-pathway diagnostic assessment • Narrative, description and deliberate choices

Student name: _____ Date: _____

Suggested time: 65 minutes. Show working and explain your reasoning. This is an independent diagnostic, not an official examination paper.

1. Describe an abandoned place that still shows signs of recent human activity. Write 120–150 words. Include at least three sensory details and one carefully chosen contrast. [10 marks]

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2. Plan a story around the title “The Message That Arrived Too Late”. State the protagonist, central conflict, turning point and intended ending. [8 marks]

3. Write the opening 250–350 words of your planned story. Establish viewpoint, setting, tension and character motivation. Avoid relying only on dialogue. [20 marks]

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4. Select one sentence from your writing and rewrite it twice: once to create suspense and once to create calm. Explain two language choices. [8 marks]

5. Edit your draft: identify and correct one issue with sentence structure, one with punctuation and one with clarity. Explain the improvement. [9 marks]

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Parent / Tutor Guide | English Creative Writing

Keep this section separate from the student during the assessment. The marks are diagnostic prompts, not an official IGCSE mark scheme.

Suggested responses and assessment notes

1. (10 marks) Look for controlled sensory imagery, a clear focus, varied sentence structures and a meaningful contrast.

2. (8 marks) A coherent plan links character motivation to a credible conflict and resolution.

3. (20 marks) Use a best-fit diagnostic judgement: content, organisation, vocabulary, accuracy, audience effect and originality.

4. (8 marks) Compare changes to syntax, verbs, pacing, imagery and connotations.

5. (9 marks) Corrections must be genuine and explanations must link to reader understanding.

What to observe

Look for subject knowledge, accuracy, use of appropriate terminology, clarity of reasoning, interpretation of command words, and ability to justify or evaluate when asked.

Suggested diagnostic approach

Record which questions were attempted independently, which required prompts, and whether difficulties arose from concepts, literacy, calculations or time management. Plan follow-up teaching around recurring misconceptions.

Curriculum note

This is a general Year 10 IGCSE-oriented diagnostic. It is not endorsed by Cambridge, Pearson Edexcel or the IB. Topic order and examination demands differ by board and school; adjust to the student’s actual specification.

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