



Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

Candidate number

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate signature \_\_\_\_\_

I declare this is my own work.

# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Thursday 23 May 2024

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** – provided as a separate insert.

### Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

For Examiner's Use	
Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
<b>TOTAL</b>	



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**Section A: Reading**

Answer **all** questions in this section.  
You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

**0 1** Read again the first part of the source from **lines 1 to 6**.

List **four** things about Mary from this part of the source.

**[4 marks]**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

4























**Section B: Writing**

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

**0 5**

A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

**Either**

Write a description of a very hot place as suggested by this picture:

**or**

Write a story about a disagreement.

(24 marks for content and organisation  
16 marks for technical accuracy)

**[40 marks]****Turn over ►**













**There are no questions printed on this page**

*Do not write  
outside the  
box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE  
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**









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*Do not write  
outside the  
box*

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ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

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## GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

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### Insert

The source that follows is:

Source A: 20th Century prose fiction

*The Grass is Singing* by Doris Lessing

An extract from the middle of a novel published in 1950

**Please turn the page over to see the source**

**Source A**

This extract is taken from the middle of a novel, set in Southern Africa in the 1940s. Mary has recently moved from town to a farm after marrying Dick, a poor farmer.

1 And then, suddenly, the heat became intolerable. Outside in the bush the cicadas  
shrilled incessantly, and Mary's head ached; her limbs were heavy and tense. She  
would get up and go into the bedroom, to examine her clothes, to see if there was  
5 anything she could do: any bit of embroidery, or an alteration. With nothing to do,  
she would wander on to the verandah\* until at last her head began to swim, and she  
6 had to go back to the house to get a glass of water.

7 As time passed, the heat became an obsession. Outside, there was a rough heap of  
giant boulders, and she would watch the heat-waves beat up out of the hot stone,  
where the heat lizards, vivid red and blue and emerald, darted over the rocks like  
10 flames. Inside, she could not bear the sapping, undermining waves that beat down  
from the iron roof. Even the usually active dogs used to lie all day on the verandah.  
Mary could hear them panting softly, or whining with exasperation because of the  
flies. She would lock them out of the house, and in the middle of the morning she  
would tell a worker to carry a petrol tin full of lukewarm water into the bedroom, and,  
15 having made sure he was out of the house, she stood in a basin on the brick floor,  
pouring it over her. The scattering drops fell on the porous brick, which hissed with  
17 dryness.

18 'When is it going to rain?' she asked Dick.

'Oh, not for another month yet,' he answered easily, but looking surprised at her  
20 question. Surely she knew when the rains were likely to fall? She had been in the  
country longer than he had. But it seemed to her that in the town there had been no  
seasons, really, not as there were here. She had been out of the rhythm of cold and  
heat and rain. It had been hot, it had rained, the cold weather had come – yes,  
certainly; but it was something happening independently of her. Here, body and mind  
25 were subservient to the slow movement of the seasons; she had never in her life  
watched the implacable sky for signs of rain, as she did now, standing on the  
verandah, and screwing up her eyes at the great massed white cloud, like blocks of  
glittering crystal quartz sailing through the blue.

'The water is going very quickly,' said Dick, one day, frowning.

30 It was fetched twice a week from the bottom of the hill where the well was. Mary  
would hear shouting and yelling, as if someone were in agonised pain, and going out  
in front of the house, she watched the water-cart come through the trees, drawn by  
two slow-moving beautiful oxen, straining their hindquarters up the slope.

35 'What are you using it for?' asked Dick. She told him. His face darkened, and he  
looked at her in incredulous horror, as if she had committed a crime.

'What, wasting it like that?'

'I am not wasting it,' she said coldly. 'I am so hot I can't stand it. I want to cool  
myself.'

40 Dick swallowed, trying to keep calm. 'Listen to me,' he said angrily, in a voice he had never before used to her. 'Listen to me! Every time I order the water-cart to fetch water for the house, it means a driver, and two workers, and two oxen off other work for a whole morning. It costs money to fetch water. And then you go and throw it away! Why don't you fill the bath with water and get into it, instead of wasting it and throwing it away each time?'

45 She was furious. This seemed the last straw. Here she was, living here uncomplainingly, suffering these hardships; and then she could not use a couple of gallons of water! She opened her mouth to shout at him, but before she could, he had become suddenly sorry because of the way he had spoken to her; and there was another of those little scenes which comforted and soothed her: he apologising,  
50 blaming himself, and she forgiving him.

**Glossary:**

\* verandah – an open, roofed area along the outside of a house.

**END OF SOURCE**

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