

A GUIDE TO ANSWERING LANGUAGE: PAPER 1

English Department
John Mason School

Paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes)

Section A:

- There will be 4 questions based on an extract from a modern(ish) novel.
- You should spend an hour on this section
- This is worth 40 marks

The questions will be as follows:

- **Q1:** List four things from this part of the source that ...
- **Q2:** How does the writer use language for a particular purpose?
- **Q3:** How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?
- **Q4:** A student, having read this section, said "...". To what extent do you agree? What is your impression of the writing?

Question 1

The image shows a screenshot of a question paper interface. The main text reads: "Section A Answer all questions in this section. You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section." Below this, question Q1 is displayed: "Read again the first part of the source, lines 1 to 4. List four things from this part of the source about the dog (Spider) and her behaviour. [4 marks]". There are three callout boxes with arrows pointing to specific parts of the interface: 1. A box at the top says "You will be asked to read a particular section of the insert, draw a line round the section so you don't choose from the wrong part." with an arrow pointing to the question number '01'. 2. A box on the right says "Highlight the question so you know what you are finding factual information about." with an arrow pointing to the question text. 3. A box at the bottom right says "You really can write down the exact phrases from the text." with an arrow pointing to the answer lines.

It was on their first day at the house that Rosie saw the stranger child. Standing at the sink, her hands deep in suds, Rosie was overwhelmed by the tasks that lay ahead of her. Tired after the long drive from London the evening before, she gazed vaguely at the sunlit, overgrown garden where Sam and Cara were playing.

Read again the first part of the source, from **lines 1 to 4**. List four things about Rosie from this part of the source.

Model answer:

- 1: Rosie was stood at the sink
- 2: Rosie was feeling overwhelmed
- 3: Rosie has a car
- 4: Rosie sees a strange child

TOP TIP: Add a 5th answer if you are unsure to guarantee the 4 marks!

Question 2

They will print a smaller section of the extract; take all your quotes from this section.

02

Look in detail at this extract, lines 4 to 13 of the source.

I sat up paralysed, frozen, in the bed, conscious only of the dog and of the prickling of my own skin and of what suddenly seemed a different kind of silence, ominous and dreadful. And then, from somewhere within the depths of the house—but somewhere not very far from the room in which I was—I heard a noise. It was a faint noise, and, strain my ears as I might, I could not make out exactly what it was. It was a sound like a regular yet intermittent bump or rumble. Nothing else happened. There were no footsteps, no creaking floorboards, the air was absolutely still, the wind did not moan through the casement. Only the muffled noise went on and the dog continued to stand, bristling at the door, now putting her nose to the gap at the bottom and snuffling along, now taking a pace backwards, head cocked and, like me, listening, listening. And, every so often, she growled again.

How does the writer use language here to describe the atmosphere when Arthur Kipps wakes up?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- Words and phrases
- Language features and techniques
- Sentence forms

They will give you a specific focus-highlight it.

Ignore the last bullet point and focus on language.

[8 marks]

Language techniques you could identify:

Lexical word choices	Adjectives	Verbs	Adverbs
Semantic fields	Connotation	Simile	Metaphor
Imagery	Symbolism	Personification	Zoomorphism
Alliteration	Sibilance	Assonance	Onomatopoeia
Repetition	Rules of three	Rhetorical questions	Anecdote
Hyperbole			

Answer the question using this structure x 2/3:

Point: Answer the question/ *In the extract...*

Quote: Use a quote/ *For example...*

Method: What technique is being used in the quote or what interesting word are you zooming in on?/ *The use of...*

Effect: What effect does the language have on the reader? Write a lot about a little and offer more than one interpretation / *This suggests/implies/highlights/emphasises...*

Model answer

In the extract the writer has created a very uneasy and tense atmosphere. For example it states that Arthur 'sat up paralysed.' The use of the verb 'paralysed' suggests that Arthur has been stunned by the silence he is experiencing, suggesting there is something mysterious or unknown for him to fear. Also, it suggests a sense of helplessness in the face of this threat which emphasis the atmosphere of fear the reader feels for Arthur.

Question 3

You now need to think about the whole of the source.

This extract comes from the opening chapter of the novel.

How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?

You could write about:

- What the writer focuses your attention on at the beginning
- How and why the writer changes this focus as the source develops
- Any other structural features that interest you

Highlight where the extract is from

Use the first two bullet points to structure your answer-they are useful!

Structural features you could identify:

Omission	Exposition	Foreshadowing	Bookending
Beginning	Ending	Chronological	Flashback
Rising action	Catalyst	Climax	Falling action
Narrative voice	First person	Third person	Juxtaposition

Answer the question using this structure x 2:

Paragraph 1: What is being focused on at the beginning? From whose perspective are we seeing these events and what is the effect of this? What questions remain unanswered, narrative hook?

The writer focuses your attention at the beginning of the extract by...

Paragraph 2: Where does the focus change? How does the writer signal this change (*tip: read the first sentence of each paragraph*)? What does this make you ask/think/feel/fear/suspect?

Do you spot any other interesting techniques? Climactic points?

What about the end? How does it link to the beginning? What questions remain in the reader's mind at the end?

There is a focus shift when...

At the end of the extract the focus is...

Model answer

The writer focuses your attention at the beginning of the extract by telling the reader that their mother has died, 'if my mother had lived.' This is a narrative hook because it gets the reader's attention in the very first sentence. The reader will want to know more about the mother and how she died.

There is a focus shift in paragraph 2 when the narrator uses a flashback, 'I remember'. The narrator wants to remember the time before their mother dies because they were happiest then. The memory of the birthday highlights how they will never celebrate a birthday with their mother again making the reader sympathise with the narrator. At the end of the extract the focus of the mother remains the same so it is a linear structure. This emphasises how much the narrator loves their mother and misses them. Their relationship consumes their life.

Question 4

Focus this part of your answer on **lines 23-40**.

The statement can often be split into 2 and you can address both parts (look for the comma that splits the two statements).

A student, having read this section of the text, said “Although the character of Charles seems unusual and an unlikely person to take in a young child, the writer makes him seem kind and caring.”

You can largely agree with the statement up to a L6

In your response, you could:

- Write your own impressions about the characters
- Evaluate how the writer has created these impressions
- Support your opinions with references to the text

You will need to look at methods the writer has used, you can refer to both **structural and language** methods

(20 Marks)

Evaluative Words and Phrases

To an extent	Shows
Particularly	Suggests
Consistently	Demonstrates
Clearly	Infers
Obviously	Connotes
Somewhat	Creates the impression

I agree with the statement in that...	However, I agree less with the notion that...
I somewhat agree that...	On the other hand, I don't fully agree with ...
I agree to the extent that...	Some people might argue that...
It's true to say ...	Conversely it could be implied that...
I agree to a great extent that...	

Answer the question using this structure x 4:

Response: Answer the question/ It's true to say that...(use an evaluative word/phrase)

Evidence: Use a quote/ For example...

Method: What technique is being used in the quote or what interesting word are you zooming in on?/ The use of...

Evaluation: How does the quote support the statement you are arguing for? / This suggests/implies/highlights/emphasises...

Model answer

It's true to say that Charles is an unlikely person to take on a child because he is a single man that seems used to living the life he wants to lead and not have to think of others. For example 'He spoke English to people and French to cats, and Latin to the birds.' The use of a list to show what his personal qualities are like emphasises that he is an educated man that has time on his hands; he has no responsibilities and comes across as being carefree and therefore not likely to take on the responsibility of a child.

Question 5

Section B:

- This is the writing section of the paper and you will choose one task to complete from a choice of two.
- YOne task will ask you to describe a picture and the other task will be to write a narrative.
- You should spend 45 mins on this section
- This is worth 40 marks: 24 marks for organisation and content, 16 marks for SPAG

The questions will look as follows:

Write a description of a mysterious place, as suggested by this picture:



You only need to answer **ONE** of the tasks

or

Write a story about an event that cannot be explained.

If you choose the narrative task consider using the Drop, Shift, Zoom, Leave structure

This video explains how to use the structure:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUsvbpn9oPg>

1. **DROP:** Drop (the character into the middle of the action – in medias res)
What will the opening sentence/hook be? What will the atmosphere be like? What methods will you use to describe the setting and establish ideas about the character?
2. **SHIFT:** Shift (the focus to what is happening around them in the wider scene or a flashback)
You need to change the focus by having a flashback or flashforward.
3. **ZOOM:** Zoom (in on a particular detail)
What could you focus on to create more tension and suspense? What could change to create a sense of foreshadowing?
4. **LEAVE:** (end the piece)
How will you end the narrative? Will it build up to a climax or cliff hanger? Consider switching the pathetic fallacy here. **DO NOT** say you wake up and it was all a dream and do not kill everyone off!