Success in IGCSE

Reading Paper

This paper is two hours long and you have three questions to answer

Question 1: Directed Writing  - 15 marks for reading and 5 for writing

Follow the example that is given, ‘begin your answer with…’ and include the bullet points listed in the question.

Question 2: Writer’s Effect  - 10 marks

Look for descriptive techniques in the numbered paragraphs (simile, metaphor, alliteration, emotive language, adjectives, powerful verbs, personification)

Question 3: Summary  - 15 marks for reading and 5 for writing

Question 1: Directed writing

This question could ask you to write in a variety of ways. This could be:

- A conversation/ dialogue
- A speech
- A diary entry
- A newspaper report
- A letter

You need to be aware of the conventions (what to include) in all of these – we don’t know which one they will choose in the exam!

Remember – no matter what question you are asked, you will always be given the format to follow. Read this carefully and carry on the example with the same characters and style of the writing (is it formal/informal etc)

What to include in a conversation/ dialogue:

- Include the tones of voice of each character e.g
  Sandra: (eagerly) It’s so exciting!
- Include actions and reactions of the characters while they are speaking e.g Sandra: (not listening) ... and soon I’ll be in Paris!
- Make sure punctuation reflects the situation. Use exclamation marks, question marks and ellipses (...) in your writing.
- Make the dialogue realistic with interruptions and overlapping speech.
- Always develop the example that you are presented with – you will have to present two viewpoints in your answer.

What to include in a speech:
- Ensure that you match the style and content to the AUDIENCE
- Ensure that you have a clear opening that is matched to audience e.g ‘Fellow students’, ‘Ladies and gentlemen’
- Get listeners attention straightaway (rhetorical questions are a good way to do this)
- Speak directly to the audience using personal pronouns (you, we, us)
- Use a range of rhetorical devices (AFOREST!) Alliteration / Anecdotes (short personal story) / Facts / Opinion / Rhetorical question / Repetition / Exaggeration / Emotive language / Statistics / Three (list of).

What to include in a diary entry:
- Date of entry
- First person (I)
- Use of the past tense
- Recounting events that have happened and references to time
- Focussing on key moments
- Personal feelings
- Thoughts/ feelings / actions for the future

What to include in a report:
- Always consider the audience – who are you writing for?
- Use formal English.
- Include a headline
- Use time connectives
- Include facts and figures
- Use the 5 W’s in the opening paragraph to create a distinctive ‘voice’ (the reporter) Who/What/Where/When/Why?
- Structure your work into paragraphs
- Witness statements and interviews
What to include in a letter:

- Ensure you are using the correct tone and language for the correct audience (e.g. if you are writing to a company your writing will be formal. If you are writing to a friend or relative your writing will be informal)
- Include your address (top right) and the date
- If you know the person you are writing to use their name. If you do not know the writers name begin the letter with Dear Sir/Madam
- Include reason for writing
- If it is a formal letter but you know the recipient in person sign off the letter Yours Sincerely. If it formal but you do not know the recipient use Yours Thankfully.
- If you are writing to a friend or relative you can end informally (e.g. ‘love to you and lots of hugs!)

Top Tips for Question 1

Once you have read the extract – read the question

- Look at who you are writing as – you need to sound like them!
- What form are you being asked to write in? – a letter? A newspaper report? A script? This will inform your LANGUAGE CHOICES AND DEGREE OF FORMALITY
- Who is your audience? This will inform your LANGUAGE CHOICES AND DEGREE OF FORMALITY

- You need to find at least 3 pieces of information for each bullet point
- Once you have located the information, you must write it in your own words and develop ideas from the information – add opinion or feelings of the person you are being asked to write as.
- Tick each piece of evidence as you use it.
- Although you are writing in your own words, you can include dates, times, places etc – you get marks for these.
**Question 2: Writers effect**

This question requires you to find and select descriptive techniques in a passage and analyse them, writing about the effects they create.

You will be asked to look at 2 paragraphs from Passage A and find words that create images. Look for **INTERESTING WORDS**.

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**TOP TIPS FOR QUESTION 2!**

- Re-read the paragraph and think – **what is the atmosphere/main idea here?**
- **Which words and short phrases** create that atmosphere? Highlight them
- THEN
- **Write an overarching statement** eg: the writer creates an atmosphere that is hostile and unwelcoming.
- **Write the evidence followed by a dictionary definition of the word**
- **Explain the effect. WHY has the writer chosen THAT word or phrase IN THE CONTEXT of the extract?**
- The minimum requirement for this question is four pieces of evidence for each paragraph.

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**Question 3: Summary**

This is the final question and the easiest question to gain marks. **This question is based on Passage B only.**

There are 3 stages to remember for this question.

### Step 1

- Always read the question first. WRITE THE FOCUS OF THE SUMMARY AT THE TOP OF THE PASSAGE. This will help you stay focussed on the information you are looking for. Read passage B. As you read it, make sure you are highlighting key words and phrases that are relevant to the question. You need at least 15 points

### Step two

- **Copy the phrases into bullet points as a list. You copy directly from the passage!**

### Step three

Turn the bullet points into full coherent sentences using connectives to form a well linked paragraph. At the end of the question you should have a table with bullet points and underneath one paragraph.