

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

Candidate number

Surname \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

## Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Monday 4 November 2019 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.

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

### 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.



**Section A: Reading**

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

0	1
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Read again the first part of the source, from **lines 1 to 5**.

List **four** things about Zoe's surroundings 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
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Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

**Either**

Write a story about a magical world as suggested by this picture:



**or**

Describe a place you think is beautiful.

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

**[40 marks]**

**Turn over ►**

















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*Do not write  
outside the  
box*

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









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box*

**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE  
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: 21st Century prose fiction

*The Silent Land* by Graham Joyce

An extract from the beginning of a novel written in 2010.

**Please turn over to see the source**

**Source A**

This extract is from the beginning of a novel by Graham Joyce. A young married couple, Zoe and Jake, are on a skiing holiday in the French Pyrenean mountains.

1 It was snowing again. Gentle six-pointed flakes from a picture book were settling on  
her jacket sleeve. The mountain air prickled with ice and the smell of pine resin.  
Several hundred metres below lay the dark outline of Saint-Bernard-en-Haut, their  
Pyrenean resort village; across to the west, the irregular peaks of the mountain  
5 range.

Zoe pulled the air into her lungs, feeling the cracking cold of it before letting go.  
And when the mountain seemed to nod and sigh back at her, she almost thought  
she could die in that place, and happily.

9 If there are few moments in life that come as clear and as pure as ice, when the  
10 mountain breathed back at her, Zoe knew that she had trapped one such moment  
and that it could never be taken away. Everywhere was snow and silence. Snow  
and silence; the complete arrest of life; a rehearsal and a pre-echo of death. She  
pointed her skis down the hill. They looked like weird talons of brilliant red and gold  
14 in the powder snow as she waited, ready to swoop. *I am alive. I am an eagle.*

15 The sun was up now; in a few minutes there would be more skiers to break the  
eerie morning spell. But right now they had the snow and the morning entirely to  
themselves.

There was a whisper behind her. It was the effortless track of Jake's skis as he  
came over the ridge and caught up with her.

20 'This is perfection.'

'You ready to go?' she asked.

'Yep. Let's do it.'

They'd got up early to beat the holiday-making hordes for this first run of the  
morning. Because this – the tranquillity, the silence, the undisturbed snow and the  
25 feeling of proximity to an eagle's flight – was what it was all about. Jake hit the west  
side of the steep but broad slope and she took the east, carving matching parallel  
tracks through the fresh snow.

28 But at the edge of the slope, near the curtain of trees, she felt a small slab of snow  
slip from underneath her. It was like she'd been bucked, so she took the fall-line\* to  
30 recover her balance. Before she'd dropped three hundred metres, the whisper of  
her skis was displaced by a rumble.

Zoe saw at the periphery of her vision that Jake had come to a halt at the side of the  
piste and was looking back up the slope. Irritated by the false start they'd made,  
she etched a few turns before skidding to a halt and turning to look back at her

35 husband.

The rumble became louder. There was a pillar of what looked like grey smoke unfurling in silky banners at the head of the slope, like the heraldry of armies. It was beautiful. It made her smile.

40 Then her smile iced over. Jake was speeding straight towards her. His face was rubberised and he mouthed something as he flew at her.

‘Get to the side! To the side!’

She knew now that it was an avalanche. Jake slowed, batting at her with his ski pole. ‘Get into the trees! Hang on to a tree!’

45 The rumbling had become a roaring in her ears, drowning Jake’s words. She pushed herself down the fall-line, scrambling for traction, trying to accelerate away from the roaring cloud breaking behind her like a tsunami at sea. Jagged black cracks appeared in the snow in front of her. She angled her skis towards the side of the slope, heading for the trees, but it was too late. She saw Jake’s black suit go bundling past her as he was turned by the great mass of smoke and snow. Then  
50 she too was punched off her feet and carried through the air, twisting, spinning, turning in the white-out. She remembered something about spreading her arms around her head. For a few moments it was like being agitated inside a washing machine, turned head over heels a few times, until at last she was dumped heavily in a rib-cracking fall. Then there came a chattering noise, like the amplified jaws of  
55 a million termites chewing on wood. The noise itself filled her ears and muffled everything, and then there was silence, and the total whiteness faded to grey, and then to black.

**END OF SOURCE**

## **Glossary**

\* fall-line – the most direct route downhill

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