

Preparing for the Mock English Language IGCSE

The Exam

You will sit a Paper 2. This consists of 3 questions and two passages. The exam is one and a half hours long.

Question one will be based on Passage A. It will ask you to select information from the passage and to use it for your own ends – often, candidates are asked to write a letter, for example.

Question 2 is an analytical question; it asks you to look closely at parts of Passage A and to comment on why and how the language is effective.

Question 3 is based on Passage A and Passage B. It is divided into 2 parts and will ask you to summarise a.) aspects of Passage A and b.) aspects of Passage B.

Preparing for the Exam

Look back at all previous practice answers you have completed and read my notes and comments on them. How do you need to improve your work? Are there particular questions you have struggled with?

Make sure you are confident with the meanings of technical terms: ALLITERATION, SIBILANCE, PERSONIFICATION, METAPHOR, SIMILE, ONOMATOPOEIA etc. (This relates to Question 2, but you must always comment on *why* and *how* such devices are effective)

Use the textbook you have been given to complete some practice answers under timed conditions. Candidates who are used to writing under timed conditions always perform better than those who are not.

Remember

Question 1:

- base all points or arguments on material from the passage
- do not make up too much additional information; a bit of imaginative elaboration is OK, but do not get carried away
- construct arguments clearly: use linking words like ‘however’, ‘furthermore’, ‘moreover’, ‘nevertheless’ etc.
- avoid bland words like ‘nice’ or ‘boring’; be articulate and use more complex language

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Question 2:

- Quote words or phrases from the passage
- Make it clear that you know what the words mean
- Most importantly, show why and how the words are effective

Question 3:

- There are 15 marks available for the summary (and 5 for the quality of your writing); this means you must make 15 separate points
- Do *not* quote or comment on the effectiveness of the language
- Do not repeat yourself or elaborate on points; be concise!

General:

- Read questions CAREFULLY!
- Observe all instructions as to length, structure etc.
- Poor paragraphing and not using full stops accurately will lose you marks
- Always plan and later CHECK your work