

WJEC English

How to get a grade C on Paper 1 Writing

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Paper 1 Writing Description

You are advised to spend 25 minutes writing a description for Section B1

The description is worth 20 marks

Divide up your time:

5 minutes – planning

15 minutes – writing

5 minutes – checking

Write at least **one side of A4** (no less, but not much more).

Aim for 4 – 5 good paragraphs (3 minimum – 6 maximum).

Remember...

Timing is key...you are being assessed on the quality of your writing skills...plan and check your work carefully.

How to write descriptively...

Imagine the scene in your head and then photograph it...what can you see in the photo? Get your imaginary lens and zoom in! What little things can you see? Describe in detail this photo you have taken.

Avoid generalisations. Concentrate on the individuals in the scene eg. each child, each man, each woman, each animal...don't simply group people eg. 'the mothers....'

Use third person – it's much easier eg. he, she, it.

Make it realistic by using authentic details eg. name of car, Pepsi etc.

Try to write from memory rather than imagination.

Write in sentences and paragraphs.

Think about your choice of verbs, adverbs and adjectives.

Remember:

This is a snapshot, a description of a scene not a story with action. Write a lot about a little!

Sample Questions...

Why not have a go at some:

- Describe the scene as children leave an infant or nursery school at the end of the day.
- Describe the scene in a doctor's waiting room on a busy Monday morning.
- Describe a children's play area in the park on a sunny afternoon.
- Describe the room you're in.

Paper 1 – Writing

Personal / Narrative

You are advised to spend about 40 minutes on section B2.

The personal or narrative writing is worth 20 marks.

Divide up your time:

5 – 10 minutes planning

25 – 30 minutes writing

5 minutes checking

Write **2 sides of A4** (3 max.) Be selective of what you include and the words you choose.

Use paragraphs.

Remember:

Timing is the key. Quality rather than quantity.

How to produce personal/narrative writing...

Think about the opening and ending, particularly when they are given. A good opening can hook the reader and you need to think about how and when to start.

Readers need information but sometimes a good story withholds information until the appropriate moment.

Think about how to sequence the events in the story.

Be consistent with characters, names, relationships, tenses etc. Keep to a couple of characters rather than a cast of thousands! Your uncle should not become your brother and Sharon should not turn into Tracey!

Write in the past tense (unless you really know what you are doing).

You need to be careful with the 'scale' of your story. Don't get involved in complex action plots. Though you need events to happen in the story, the reader also needs to care about the characters. A single incident is usually the best.

Be careful with the 'time-frame' of the story. Base all the action 'within an hour'.

Think about the pace of the story. Judge when to describe, comment and when to move on.

Dialogue, though effective does require control over layout and punctuation and you will be assessed on this.

Write about things that have happened to you, especially when you were younger. Write about what you know.

Try to avoid writing horror/ghost/slasher stories – the examiners are bored with them!

Sample Questions

Why not have a go at some...

Choose one of the following titles:

- The Gift
- The Surprise
- The Visitor
- A Night Out
- My Neighbour's Pet

Write a story which begins with these words:

Sam knew there was trouble coming as soon as Mrs Thomas closed the door.

Write a story which ends with the following:

My mother just looked at me and said, "I told you it would never work." I realise now that she was absolutely right.

Anecdote Page

