



General Certificate of Secondary Education

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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English Language

Unit 4

Personal or Creative Writing
and Reading Literary and
Non-Fiction Texts



GEN41

[GEN41] Assessment

TIME

1 hour 45 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

You must complete the tasks in the spaces provided. If needed, you can ask for more sheets to finish your responses.

Do not write outside the boxed area on each page or on blank pages.

Complete in **black ink only**. Do not write with a gel pen.

Complete **four** tasks: **one** task in **Section A** and the **three** tasks in **Section B**.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

Section A (Writing) **One** task marked out of **88** marks. Spend **55** minutes on this section.

Section B (Reading) **Three** tasks marked out of **62** marks. Spend **50** minutes on this section.

This paper contains an insert for use with Task 2.

Pay attention to the suggested timings shown at the beginning of each task; these will enable you to complete all the tasks within the time limit.

Figures in brackets printed at the end of each task indicate the marks available.

Examiners can only credit what they can read. Keep your work legible.

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Assessment Level of Control:

Tick the relevant box (✓)

Controlled Conditions	
Other	



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Section A: Personal or Creative Writing

Task 1: Spend 55 minutes on your response. **Mark Allocation: 88 marks**

Up to **58 marks** are available for an **organised** piece of personal or creative writing **that matches form with purpose to engage the specified audience.**

Up to **30 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentence structures** and **accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar.**

Complete only one task.

Either

- (a) **Personal writing: Write a speech for your classmates about the most interesting person you have ever met.**

Or

- (b) **Creative writing: Write a creative essay for your school magazine. The picture below is to be the basis for your writing. You may provide your own title.**



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You are advised to spend:

- **15 minutes** thinking and planning your response
- **30 minutes** writing your response
- **10 minutes** checking your writing

Planning Space:

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EITHER

(a) Personal writing: Write a speech for your classmates about the most interesting person you have ever met.

Horizontal lines for writing a speech.

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16GEN4105

Lined writing area for notes, consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

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16GEN4106





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16GEN4108



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16GEN4109



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16GEN4111

Reading Non-Fiction

Tasks 3 and 4 are based on two extracts from a newspaper article:
“IS YOUR SMART SPEAKER TOO SMART?”

Task 3: Spend **12 minutes** on this task. **Total: 15 marks**

Read the text below which is the beginning of the article.

Explain how the writer has gained and held the interest of the reader.

IS YOUR SMART SPEAKER TOO SMART?

How many of us would allow a complete stranger to sit in our living room, listening to everything said by our family every second of the week? It would be shocking...yet most of us have done just that since the moment we excitedly plugged in our smart speaker, our latest bit of hi-tech kit!

Just recently, I was struck by how I had been heartlessly replaced by this seemingly helpful, artificially-intelligent assistant.

From another room I heard my child chirping, “What is the capital of Australia?” Considering whether it was Canberra or Sydney (I never could remember which one was right) my thoughts were interrupted by the assured declaration from the smart speaker: “The capital of Australia is Canberra.”

I must admit, I felt my anger rise. My blood began to boil!

That was it – it had to go! This monster wasn’t going to usurp my role as the provider of knowledge to my children. I resolved to begin my crusade to have it evicted from my home!





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Task 4: Spend 12 minutes on this task. Total: 15 marks

Read the text below which is the final section of the same article.

Explain how the writer has developed a negative view of smart speakers and the companies that operate them.

With almost 10 million people in the UK owning a smart speaker, an industry insider has exposed some appalling facts about what these so-called assistants are really up to!

“We often listen to full conversations, and we even share the ones we like the most with our friends on social media!” revealed the whistleblower.

Did you know that these sneaky speakers continue recording for a short period after the trigger word is used? In a recent survey a staggering 80% of people questioned were unaware of these rogue recordings.

Furthermore, an astonishing new research report revealed that a well-known hi-tech company had actively encouraged staff to eavesdrop on hundreds of customers’ conversations per day. And they insult our intelligence by having us believe this improves functionality!

Take a second to process that. Your privacy is being annihilated by a huge multi-national company – without your knowledge, never mind your consent!

There is no doubt this technology enhances many elements in our lives, but at what cost?





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[15]

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Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

English Language

Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and
Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts

[GEN41]
Assessment

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Text A

Katherine is starting a new job with an important scientific company. As part of the security system she has to go through a long tunnel. This leads from the public areas to her secure work area.

Katherine pushed open the metal door and walked a few feet into the perfect blackness. The rough cement floor stretched away on either side but she could see the narrow length of carpet, which ran like a roadway, disappearing into the darkness. She had taken only a few steps along the strip when the door hissed and swung shut behind her, snuffing out the last faint hint of light.

“See with your feet,” she reminded herself, her voice entirely swallowed up by the lifeless air. After only a few more steps she felt hard concrete under her right foot. Startled, she moved too far left. Her shoe caught on the carpet’s edge, came off and was immediately lost in the great black void. She took off her other shoe before half running, half stumbling on. Each time her foot left the softness of the carpet, her pulse beat more wildly. Beneath her feet the endless expanse of concrete felt like a frozen lake. She did her best to stay composed and edged slowly back to the carpet to move on. But the breadth of all that darkness seemed to be closing in . . .

Standing dead still, she listened, willing her heart to stop pounding ever louder in her ears. She held her breath. The darkness felt suddenly alive all around her.

“The Lost Symbol” by Dan Brown (ISBN: 9780593054277) Published 2009 © Batman Press

Text B

Carrie is in an isolated Scottish castle. Outside, a storm is raging. A fire has broken out in the castle, trapping her in a tower.

The storm slammed into the castle with a fury, buffeting the walls like some hammer of the gods, churning the water below into the high waves now clawing at the stone. Whipped into a frenzy, the fire rushed upwards in a thundering whirlwind of sparks and shooting flames.

The heat rolling off the fire was intense. A loud rumble filled the tower room and the floor lurched. As I grabbed at the window sill to stay upright, the wall opposite disappeared. The floor rippled as the whole room began to tilt. The floor heaved again, tilting further. For a third time the floor lurched, and disintegrated. Loose pages of manuscript floated on the heated air like slow butterflies before bursting one by one into flame.

In a desperate bid to escape the surging flames, I slid down the outer side of the window, dangling from the sill and letting the wall of the tower shield me from the worst of it. For a moment I hung there, fighting to cling on to the damp stone, though it was heating up by the second. Between the storm and the fire, there was no way to reach me by land or air or water. From far away I heard the wail of sirens, faint like birds over the loch. Around me the wall began to steam.

“The Shakespeare Curse” by J L Carrell (ISBN: 9780751542226) Published 2010 © Sphere