

Practice for English language paper 1 question 5

Question 5 is a 40 mark question. 24 of those marks are dedicated to the content and organisation of your work. 16 of those marks are dedicated to spelling, punctuation and grammar. Although some students feel a little overwhelmed at the amount of marks on offer with this question, it is NOT impossible. Always aim as high as you can and do your best.

In the exam you will have 45 minutes to write an **extended** piece of writing.

You choose **either**:

Write a description suggested by the following picture:



OR

Write a story about someone who is lost in a huge place.

Tips to be successful at this question:

- Take your time.
- Think about what you can describe.
- You will need to add description, even if you are writing a story.
- Use a variety of punctuation. Demonstrate that you can use more than just full stops. Make sure punctuation is used accurately.
- Keep things believable.
- Fast paced stories that race through a complicated plot find it harder to pick up marks.
- Use a variety of sentence lengths and structures.
- Stories that only include short sentences begin to sound like a list.
- Make changes to the picture if you want to. You do not have to stick to it exactly.
- Proof read! Remember, 16 marks are dedicated towards your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

It is important that you plan your response before you start writing, complete these tasks to help you.

1. Choose straight away which task you are going to complete.
2. Make a list/mind-map of everything you are going to include in your writing.
3. If you are writing a description, it will help if you pick out which features of the picture you are going to talk about and jot down useful words/phrases that you will include.
4. If you are writing the story then you need to consider what the plot is before writing, think simply, what will happen in the beginning, middle and end. Who will your character(s) be? What will interest the reader? Still make a list of useful words/phrases that you will include.
5. Where will you include different techniques, examples of punctuation and a variety of sentence types? it is important that you plan where they will be included so that you know that they are in your writing.
6. Remember you must write in paragraphs!

On the following pages are different examples of exam questions you could answer as part of your revision.

Task: EITHER

Write a description suggested by this image.

OR

Write a story about a time you felt scared.



Reduce: 5 minutes

In no more than 50 words, what could be happening in this scene?

ZOOM: 10 minutes

Describe one tiny aspect of this photo – someone's eye, a hand, an item of clothing...

Imagine: 5 minutes

What might these girls be able to see? Hear? Smell? Be detailed...

Write: 10 minutes

Write the first part of your description/ story. Make sure you are including all of the notes you have made on this page.

Task: EITHER

Write a description suggested by this image.

OR

Write a story about an animal.



Reduce: 5 minutes

In no more than 50 words, what could be happening in this scene?

ZOOM: 10 minutes

Describe one tiny aspect of this photo – someone's eye, a hand, an item of clothing...

Imagine: 5 minutes

What might you be able to see? Hear? Smell? Be detailed...

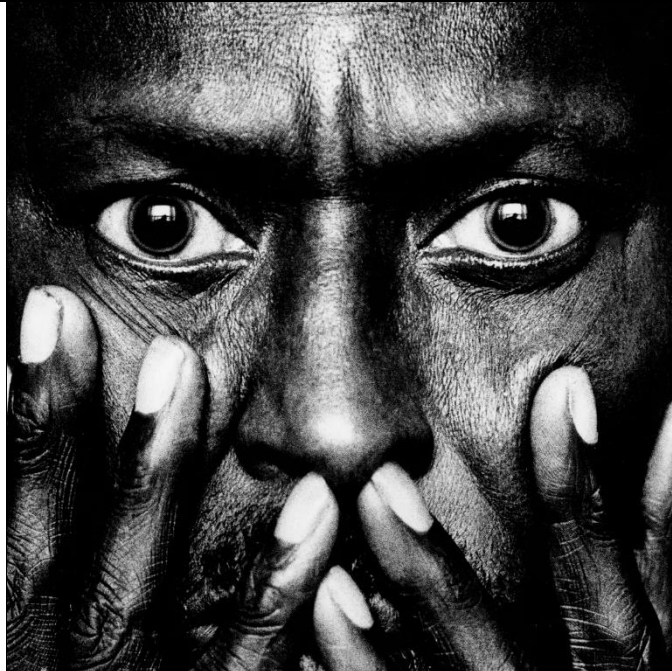
Write: 10 minutes

Write the first part of your description/ story. Make sure you are including all of the notes you have made on this page.

Task: EITHER

Write a description suggested by this image.
OR

Write a story about an animal.



Reduce: 5 minutes

In no more than 50 words, what could be happening in this scene?

ZOOM: 10 minutes

Describe one tiny aspect of this photo – someone's eye, a hand, an item of clothing...

Imagine: 5 minutes

What might you be able to see? Hear? Smell? Be detailed...

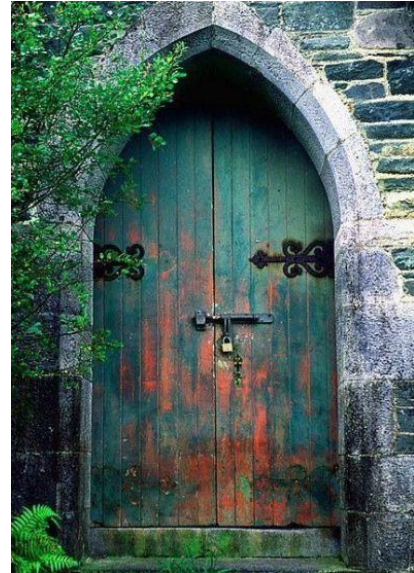
Write: 10 minutes

Write the first part of your description/ story. Make sure you are including all of the notes you have made on this page.

Task: EITHER

**Write a description suggested by this image.
OR**

Write a story about a time you felt scared.



Reduce: 5 minutes

In no more than 50 words, what could be happening in this scene?

ZOOM: 10 minutes

Describe one tiny aspect of this photo –the door, the tree, the paint, the lock...

Imagine: 5 minutes

What might you be able to see? Hear? Smell? Be detailed...

Write: 10 minutes

Write the first part of your description/ story. Make sure you are including all of the notes you have made on this page.