





AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1: Past Questions

Year	Source A	Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4	Question 5	Question 5 image
June 2023	21st Century prose-fiction The Life of Pi by Yann Martel	Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 6. List four things about hyenas from this part of the source.	Look in detail at this extract, from lines 10 to 19 of the source. How does the writer use language here to describe the hyena's appearance?	You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel. How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?	Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 20 to the end. A student said, "This part of the story, where the hyena behaves wildly, is funny rather than frightening. The writer suggests that the hyena is actually no serious threat to Pi." To what extent do you agree?	A wildlife magazine is running a creative writing competition and the winning entry will be published in its next edition. Either Write a description of a zoo or wildlife park as suggested by this picture Or Write a story about a human meeting an animal.	
Nov 2022	20 th century prose fiction The Old Man and the Sea by Ernest Hemingway	Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5. List four things about the old man from this part of the source.	Look in detail at this extract from lines 1-15 How does the writer use language here to describe the old man?	You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel. How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?	Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 16 to the end. A student said, 'While it seems that the old man is widely seen as a failure, in this part of the story the writer shows that the boy still has faith in him and that they greatly respect each other.' To what extent do you agree?	Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and the best entries will be published. Either Write a description of a fishing village, as suggested by this picture Or Write a story about an unlikely friendship	
June 2022	20th Century prose-fiction The Pearl by John Steinbeck	Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 6. List four things about the brush house and what is happening in this part of the source.	Look in detail at this extract, from lines 7 to 17 of the source. How does the writer use language here to describe the conflict between Kino and the scorpion?	You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel. How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?	Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 19 to the end. A student said, "In this part of the story, Juana's reaction to the danger facing their baby is different to Kino's. The writer shows that Kino is unhelpful, and it is Juana who tries to save the baby's life." To what extent do you agree?	A travel website is running a creative writing competition and will publish the winning entries. Either Write a description of an unusual place to stay, as suggested by this picture Or Write a story about a life-saving rescue.	

<p>Nov 2021</p>	<p>21st Century prose fiction</p> <p>Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 4.</p> <p>List four things about Master from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 5 to 15 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe Ugwu's impression of the city?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source from line 20 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'From the moment he arrives at Master's compound, the writer portrays Ugwu's feelings of pure excitement, but by the end it seems that he may be very disappointed.' To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.</p> <p>Either Describe a place at sunset as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story about a new beginning</p>	
<p>Nov 2020</p>	<p>21st Century prose-fiction</p> <p>The Silk Factory by Judith Allnatt</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 4.</p> <p>List four things about Rosie from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 14 to 23 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe the garden?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 24 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'I wasn't at all surprised by the disappearance of the stranger child at the end of the extract. The writer has left us in no doubt that she is just part of Rosie's imagination.' To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>Your local library is running a creative writing competition. The best entries will be published in a booklet of creative writing.</p> <p>Either Write a description of a mysterious place, as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story about an event that cannot be explained.</p>	
<p>Nov 2019</p>	<p>21st Century prose fiction</p> <p>The Silent Land by Graham Joyce</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5.</p> <p>List four things about Zoe's surroundings from this part of the source</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 9 to 14 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe Zoe's feelings?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 28 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'In this part of the story, where Zoe and Jake are caught in the avalanche, I can't believe Zoe is so slow to react to the warning signs because, in the end, the situation sounds really dangerous.' To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.</p> <p>Either Write a story about a magical world as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Describe a place you think is beautiful</p>	

<p>June 2019</p>	<p>20th Century prose-fiction</p> <p>The Mill by H E Bates</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5.</p> <p>List four things about the motor-van from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 6 to 12 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe the Hartop family?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus box this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 34 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'This part of the story, where Alice is sent back along the road to find what has fallen from the roof and returns with the chrysanthemums, shows how hard and cruel Hartop is, so that all of our sympathy is with Alice.'</p> <p>To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.</p> <p>Either Describe a market place as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.</p>	
<p>Nov 2018</p>	<p>20th Century prose-fiction</p> <p>A Sound of Thunder by Ray Bradbury</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 9.</p> <p>List four things about this jungle from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 16 to 26 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe the Tyrannosaurus Rex?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 31 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'This part of the story, where the men encounter the Tyrannosaurus Rex, shows Eckels is right to panic. The Monster is terrifying!'</p> <p>To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and the best entries will be published.</p> <p>Either Write a story about time travel as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Describe life as you imagine it in 200 years' time.</p>	
<p>June 2018</p>	<p>21st Century prose-fiction</p> <p>Jigs and Reels by Joanne Harris</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 4.</p> <p>List four things about Mr Fisher from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 9 to 15 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to convey Mr Fisher's views on books and stories of the past?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus box this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 25 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'This part of the story, where Mr Fisher is marking homework, shows Tibbet's story is better than Mr Fisher expected, and his reaction is extreme.'</p> <p>To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.</p> <p>Either Write a description of an old person as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story about a time when things turned out unexpectedly.</p>	
<p>Nov 2017</p>	<p>21st Century prose-fiction</p> <p>Labyrinth by Kate Mosse</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 4.</p> <p>List four things about Alice and her surroundings from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 5 to 11 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe the mountain area?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 21 to the end.</p> <p>A reader said, 'This part of the story, where Alice decides to continue digging for the object, is very mysterious, and suggests her discovery may be life-changing.'</p> <p>To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>An online competition for story writing is being held, and you have decided to enter.</p> <p>Either Write a story, set in a mountainous area, as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story with the title 'Discovery'.</p>	

<p>June 2017</p>	<p>20th Century prose-fiction</p> <p>The Tiredness of Rosabel by Katherine Mansfield</p>	<p>Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5.</p> <p>List four things about Rosabel from this part of the source.</p>	<p>Look in detail at this extract, from lines 6 to 14 of the source.</p> <p>How does the writer use language here to describe Rosabel's bus journey home?</p>	<p>You now need to think about the whole of the source. This text is from the beginning of a novel.</p> <p>How has the writer structured the text to interest you as a reader?</p>	<p>Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from line 19 to the end.</p> <p>A student said, 'This part of the story, set in the hat shop, shows that the red-haired girl has many advantages in life, and I think Rosabel is right to be angry.'</p> <p>To what extent do you agree?</p>	<p>Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and they intend to publish the winning entries.</p> <p>Either Describe a journey by bus as suggested by this picture</p> <p>Or</p> <p>Write a story about two people from very different backgrounds.</p>	
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