

# GCSE English/English Language – Unit 1 resources

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# Section B: Writing

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## Key reminders

# Keys to Section B success

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On the day:

- Being clear about what the question is asking you to do
- Sticking to the 25 minute and 35 minutes guidelines

Before the day:

- Being clear about what the mark scheme is rewarding in your writing
- Being clear about the 16/24 mark balance
- Being clear about the possible purposes and the features related to those purposes

## On the day:

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- Being clear about what the question is asking you to do:

It sounds simple but do read the question carefully. Mistakes happen when people confuse writing letters 'to' people with 'from', or when they misread a word.

Ask yourself if you have ever seen or read a professional text which does the same or a similar thing or covers a similar topic. Aim to use your experience of reading to help you in your writing. Bring all your knowledge from your other subjects to the exam! You never know when you might need to have an opinion on violence on TV, school dinners or caring for the environment!

## On the day:

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- Sticking to the 25 minute and 35 minutes guidelines:

Watch your timing like a hawk. Ensure you do not over run on the hour and a quarter recommended for Section A. Section B is worth 40 whole marks and Q6 is worth 24 of them.

Ensure you do not write too much for Q5. It is designed to be the shorter, sharper, concise writing task. You have already demonstrated writing skills in your Controlled Assessments. In the examination you are aiming to give the examiner a clean, crisp snapshot of your finest and best skills. The more you write the less focus your piece is likely to have and the more mistakes will creep in as you begin to rush.

## Before the day:

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- Being clear about what the mark scheme is rewarding in your writing

The mark scheme is looking to reward you for:

- your ability to paragraph, organise and structure
- your vocabulary in English
- sticking to the purpose
- writing in the right way for the expected audience
- using interesting features in your work, like the professionals do
- keeping your reader hooked, engaged and interested in reading the text you are creating
- your overall ability to communicate effectively and well, ready for the next steps in your life or education.
- your technical skills.

## Before the day:

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- Being clear about the mark balance:

Remember that Question 6 is made up of 16 marks – 10 of these are for your Content and Organisation but 6 of them are for your AO3iii skills of:

- Spelling
- Punctuation
- Use of standard English
- Ability to use grammatically correct English
- Ability to vary the different types of sentences you use

Question 6 is made up of 24 marks – 16 of these are for Content and Organisation and 8 of them are for the above.

# The Technical Skills

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- In Section B AO3iii skills are therefore worth:

6 marks + 8 marks = 14 marks out of 80

That is 17.5% of the Unit Grade

Now that Unit 1 is worth 60% of your overall grade, it is well worth polishing up these skills.