

Creative Writing Knowledge Organiser Q5 English Language Paper 1

Story option – 400 – 500 words

Setting the scene:

1. Location e.g. outside v inside, bedroom, hospital, restaurant, park, woods, granny's house
2. Time e.g. just after 2pm; close to midnight; mid-morning; dusk
3. Season e.g. early autumn, height of summer, darkest winter
4. Weather e.g. dark ominous clouds, spitting rain, splintering lightning, magical icicles, dancing branches in the breeze, scorching sunlight

Storm words:

Nouns: gale, hail, gust, monsoon, downpour, whirlwind, tornado, blizzard, hurricane, blizzard, Adjectives: tempestuous, overcast, rough, turbulence, fierce, gloomy, wild, threatening, severe, blustery

Verbs: splinter, rumble, rush, drizzle, boom, patter, bluster

Hot weather words:

Adjectives: muggy, hot, humid, sultry, bone dry, clam, clear, cloudless, sun-drenched, sun-kissed, glorious, temperate, clement, drought, tropical, balmy.

Top Tip: your reader needs to be able to visualise what you are writing so clearly that they could draw it.

Sensory descriptions:

1. What can be **seen** in detail – trees, rooms, walls, ceiling, picture, landscape, horizon
2. What can be **heard** in detail – birds, drips, screams, whispers, barking, howling, screeching e.g. verbs - boom, hiss, squeak, sigh, beep, rustle, creak, meow, clatter, screech, thump, hoot, roar, echo, gurgle, squeal, hum, cackle
3. What can be **touched – textures** – e.g. adjectives - lumpy, rough, smooth, gritty, lumpy, shiny, wrinkly, rubbery, fuzzy, coarse, matt, glossy, soft, seedy, bristly, grainy.
4. What can be **tasted** – e.g. adjectives - tangy, zesty, sharp, acidic, acrid, putrid, luscious, savoury, tempting, spicy. Or verbs – nibble, bite, taste, peck, savour, suck, chew, gobble.
5. What can be **smelt** – e.g. adjectives – fragrant, sweet, lemon, fruity, mouldy, chemical, minty, putrid, pungent, decayed. E.g. nouns – scent, odour, aroma, stench, stink.
6. **Colours** – peach, mauve, rust, bronze, olive, maroon, violet, charcoal, teal, indigo, amber, crimson, azure, turquoise, burgundy, lavender.

Top tip: search a breed of dog, types of birds, fish, trees, flowers, shrubs, plants, spices or herbs that you can refer to with accuracy and detail.

Introducing and developing your character:

- Name, movements of hands, eyes, gait (how they walk), reactions.
- Show their feelings through actions – nail-biting, butterflies, goosebumps, adrenaline, perspiration, twinkling eyes, smirking, twitches
- Add colour to your character through flashback, nostalgic reflections and reminders, a little dialogue, internal monologue.

Action and resolution

- Get to the end of the story, tie it up, resolve it in some way relating to the title.

Structural methods to enhance your story: flashback, jump into the action and circle back, circular plot, recurring motif, cliffhanger.

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Description option – 300 – 400 words

The skill is to say a lot about a little.

You can use a persona with a little back story to use for perspective when describing everything in detail, i.e. see the location through their eyes.

Your focus will be the “Setting the scene” section and “Sensory language”.

Essential tools for both options

1. Adjectives, adverbs and interesting verbs
2. Starting sentences in a variety of ways, not just with the subject of the sentence (He/she/it or The walls...)
3. Personification – e.g. the sunflowers craned their necks towards the window, the bookcase loomed over me, watching my every move, the hot afternoon heat crawled, the letters taunt me,
4. Similes – e.g. like a spider’s web, delicately spun, the cracks stretched across the ceiling, wallpaper flaked off like crisp autumn leaves.
5. Correct punctuation – speech marks, exclamation mark, semicolon, colon, full stops, capital letter
6. Paragraphs
7. Different types of sentences – simple, compound, complex
8. Interesting vocabulary

Vivid present participles to start sentences – ing verbs:

Glancing, echoing, suffocating, teeming, squawking, humming, fumbling, tripping, stumbling, slotting, tugging, adjusting, hurtling, hurling, towering

Vivid past tense verbs:

Unlatched, traced, twittered, tinged, gripped, stroked, blanketed, lingered, adorned, bathed, gnarled, blossomed, craned.

Top tip: draft a few scenarios and drop your character into them e.g. a creepy woodland setting, a beautiful summer’s day on the beach, a stormy night.

Models – what do you like here?

“Dusk. As night creeps over the shady woodland, a lone owl, swoops through the still sky on silent wings. It spies a mouse scuttling below and in a flash, it plummets to the ground, seizing its victim in deadly talons. For a moment its echoing hoot fills the night air, and then silence.”

“A still moonlit night, and the ghostly howl of wolf echoes through the desolate valley. A timid deer pricks up its ears, then springs away to hide among shadowy shrubs. In the dark undergrowth, a tiny mouse pauses, tense, twitching its nose to sniff the cool night air, alert to every danger.”

See how you can set a tense scene in the first few sentences and give your read an ominous feeling?