PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

How to use these papers

This book contains four York Notes example GCSE English Language practice test papers: there are two Paper 1s (fiction) and two Paper 2s (non-fiction). All these York Notes papers have been modelled on the ones that you will sit in your AQA GCSE 9–1 English Language exams.

There are lots of ways these papers can support your study and revision for the AQA GCSE 9–1 English Language exam. There is no 'right' way – choose the one or ones that suits your learning style best.

You could use them:

1 Alongside York Notes AQA English Language and Literature: Revision and Exam Practice

Do you have the York Notes Revision and Exam Practice guide for AQA GCSE English Language (and Literature)?

The papers in this book will allow you to try out the skills and techniques outlined in Chapters 1 to 6 of the guide. So you could:

- · read a section of the guide dealing with one specific question type
- complete this question in one of the practice papers printed here.

As a stand-alone revision programme

Have you already mastered all of the skills needed for your exam?

Then you can keep your skills fresh by answering one or two questions from this book each day or week.

You could make a revision diary and allocate particular questions to particular times.

3 As a form of mock exam

Would you like to work under exam conditions?

You could put aside part of a day to work on a full paper in a quiet room. Set a stopwatch so that you can experience what it will be like in your real exam. If some of your friends have copies of this book then several of you could all do this together and discuss your answers afterwards.

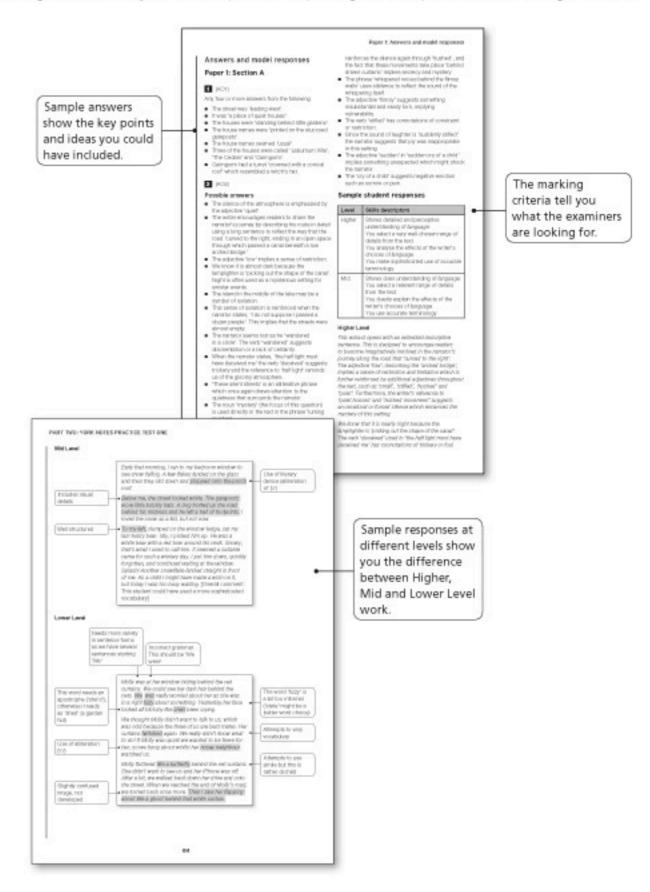
4 As a combination of revision and exam practice

Would you like to do some revision and then try a mock exam?

Perhaps you could work through one set of papers slowly – question by question over a number of days – and then save the other set of papers to use as a mock nearer the exam.

How to use the answer sections

This book contains answer sections that will help you to understand what the examiners are looking for, and how your own responses compare against sample answers at a range of levels.



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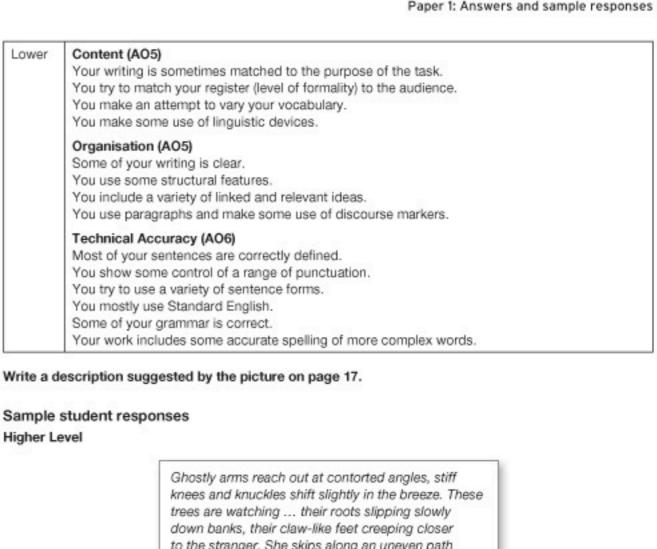
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PART TWO: YORK NOTES PRACTICE TEST ONE Paper 1: A

Paper 1: Section B

5 (AO5) (AO6)

Level	Skills descriptors
Higher	Content (AO5) Your writing is confidently matched to the purpose of the task. Your register is convincing and compelling to the audience. You use an extensive and ambitious vocabulary. Your work is well crafted. You make excellent use of linguistic devices.
	Organisation (AO5) Your writing is compelling. You make varied and inventive use of structural features. You include a range of convincing and complex ideas. Your paragraphs are linked fluently.
	Technical Accuracy (AO6) Your sentences are well defined and consistently accurate. You use a range of punctuation with a high level of accuracy. You use a full range of appropriate sentence forms for effect. You use Standard English consistently and appropriately. Your grammar is excellent. Your spelling is highly accurate, including the spelling of ambitious vocabulary.
Mid	Content (AO5) Your writing is generally well matched to the purpose of the task. Your register is generally matched to the audience. Your vocabulary is chosen for effect and you make some sophisticated word choices. You use linguistic devices successfully.
	Organisation (AO5) Your writing is engaging. You make effective use of structural features. You use a range of clear, connected ideas. Your paragraphs are well linked.
	Technical Accuracy (AO6) Your sentences are securely defined and mostly accurate. You use a range of punctuation, mostly with success. You use a variety of sentence forms for effect. You use Standard English appropriately. Your grammar is good. Your spelling is generally accurate, including the spelling of complex and irregular words.



Ghostly arms reach out at contorted angles, stiff knees and knuckles shift slightly in the breeze. These trees are watching ... their roots slipping slowly down banks, their claw-like feet creeping closer to the stranger. She skips along an uneven path oblivious to their enmity.

Beneath her feet, stones fly back. They launch spasmodic attacks at the roots. The girl never sees her enemy for she is focusing on the light that flickers close to the horizon.

Ambitious

vocabulary

Variety of sentence

forms and range of

punctuation

The whispering sea of grass parts as she sails its channel, her black hood billowing behind her like a wind chute.

From somewhere far away a bird calls out. It is a cuckoo taking illegal possession of another bird's nest. It is stealing their space in the same way that these trees seek to do. The road ahead rises and leans to the right. The stranger trusts it; she allows it to guide her towards a clearing that lies around the corner.

Once she is gone, the trees will lose their power. For now they can suck up her brief burst of energy and, for a moment, relieve the agony of their ancient, aching limbs.

39

The 's' sounds here create sibilance

Use of the senses (sound)

38