



General Certificate of Secondary Education
2023

Centre Number

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Candidate Number

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English Language

Unit 4

Personal or Creative Writing
and Reading Literary and
Non-fiction Texts



[GEN41]

GEN41

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY, MORNING

TIME

1 hour 45 minutes.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Write your Centre Number and Candidate Number in the spaces provided at the top of this page.

You must complete the tasks in the spaces provided.

Do not write outside the boxed area on each page or on blank pages.

Complete in **black ink only**. **Do not write with a gel pen.**

Complete **four** tasks: **one** task in **Section A** and the **three** tasks in **Section B**.

If needed, you can ask for Supplementary Answer Sheets.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The total mark for this paper is 150.

Section A (Writing) **One** task marked out of **88** marks. Spend **55 minutes** on this section.

Section B (Reading) **Three** tasks marked out of **62** marks. Spend **50 minutes** on this section.

This paper contains an insert for use with Task 2.

Pay attention to the suggested timings shown at the beginning of each task; these will enable you to complete all the tasks within the time limit.

Figures in brackets printed at the end of each task indicate the marks available.

Examiners can only credit what they can read. Keep your work legible.

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16GEN4101

Section A: Personal or Creative Writing

Task 1: Spend 55 minutes on your response. **Mark allocation: 88 marks**

Up to **58 marks** are available for an **organised and engaging** piece of writing that matches **form and purpose with audience**.

Up to **30 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentence structures and accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar**.

Complete only one task.

EITHER

- (a) **Personal writing: Write an article for your school magazine describing your favourite song/piece of music and why you like it.**

OR

- (b) **Creative writing: Write a story for entry in a creative writing competition. The audience is young adults. The picture below is to be the basis for your writing. You may provide your own title.**



© Getty Images





You are advised to spend:

- **15 minutes** thinking and planning your response
- **30 minutes** writing your response
- **10 minutes** checking your response

Planning space:

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EITHER

(a) Personal writing: Write an article for your school magazine describing your favourite song/piece of music and why you like it.





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16GEN4108





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Reading Non-fiction

Tasks 3 and 4 are based on two extracts from a newspaper article:

“COULD I GO A YEAR WITHOUT BUYING NEW CLOTHES?”

Task 3: Spend 12 minutes on this task. Total 15 marks

Read the text below which is the beginning of the article.

Explain how the writer has gained and held the interest of the reader.

COULD I GO A YEAR WITHOUT BUYING NEW CLOTHES?

There's one New Year's resolution I've managed to stick to, and possibly the only one that made me feel better about myself – I broke up with fast fashion.

My pledge? No new clothes for a year. No more bad day pick-me-ups. No more casual flirtation with one of the most wasteful industries worldwide. Goodbye, my problematic friend.

You must remember that loving clothes isn't a character weakness to be stamped out like bad-temperedness. Clothes can be cultural currency, tribal identity and a precious tool of self-expression. An outfit can set you apart from one crowd and win you a place in another.

Clothes have been my comfort blanket and confidence boost. A recreational hobby, a competitive sport and a way to bond with people. Tracking down those holy grail garments like a fanatical collector might hunt out rare stamps or action figures (then, to my shame, keeping them unworn with tags on).

Source: © The Guardian Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2020/jan/05/could-i-go-a-year-without-buying-any-new-clothes?>





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Task 4: Spend 12 minutes on this task. Total 15 marks

Read the text below which is the final four paragraphs from the same article.

Explain how the writer has developed her views on the positives of buying fewer clothes.

Regularly, I had a wardrobe crisis; flinging clothes around my bedroom, convinced I had nothing to wear even though I was elbow-deep in evidence to the contrary. Consequently, I would dash to the shops, just as you'd rush to the chemist for painkillers to ease a headache.

I gave clothes too much power and time ... not to mention money. My bank balance improved with each designer creation I chose not to buy.

An ego-bruising part of the whole process has been realising that nobody notices what I'm wearing. Now, I am proud to be an 'outfit repeater'. Day after day, sporting the same old outfit, I've shrugged off the shame along with the odd gravy stain. I braced myself for pointed fingers, covert sniggers or disapproving scowls that never came. I really can't stress this enough: people don't care what you wear.

I'm no longer pining over my break-up with fast fashion. Now, I'm the person who says I can do better. And you can do so much better too.

Source: © The Guardian Adapted from <https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2020/jan/05/could-i-go-a-year-without-buying-any-new-clothes?>





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Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education

2023

English Language

Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and
Reading Literary and Non-fiction Texts

[GEN41]

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY, MORNING

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Text A

Ian is trying to escape from McClean. He has had to climb onto a window ledge of a block of flats to avoid being caught.

Ian is clinging to the wall, his face pressing into it, the muscles in his legs buzzing and aching, the tendons round his ankles tugging as they take the strain of holding him. McClean's head is sticking out of the window no more than a yard or two away. But his eyes fail to fasten on Ian. A moment later, the window closes. As quickly as he appeared McClean has gone.

Suddenly the realisation hits Ian, there is no way back. He has to go forward.

Trying not to look down the dizzying precipice of the building, Ian starts to inch forward. A few more steps and those aching muscles will be shrieking with pain. He barks insults at himself under his breath. *Coward! Idiot!* It doesn't matter how much noise he makes, not in this howling wind that is trying to suck him from the wall.

He knows that only good luck is standing between him and impact with the ground below. He can see streetlamps and the necklace of lights strung along the motorway.

The wind increases further, as if it is trying to chew him loose from the wall.

Suddenly, his shoe slips off the ledge and slides into the black void below...

*Source: Adapted from "The Defender" by Alan Gibbons.
© Hachette Childrens Group*

Text B

Alex is attempting to find out information about what has happened to his uncle. He finds himself at a scrapyard, hiding in a car to avoid being seen.

Something hit the car with such force that Alex cried out, his whole body caught in a massive shockwave. The roof buckled and three huge metal fingers tore through the skin of the car like a fork through an eggshell, trailing dust and sunlight. One of the fingers grazed the side of Alex's head.

He yelled. Blood trickled over his eye. He tried to move. He was jerked back again as the car was yanked off the ground and tilted high up in the air. He couldn't see. His stomach lurched as the car swung in an arc, the metal grinding and the light spinning. The car had been picked up by the crane. It was going to be put inside the crusher.

He could feel nothing. Looking out of the back, he could see the huge steel head of the hammering piston. The back window! With the glass gone, he could crawl through the frame, but only if he moved fast.

The car screamed as two walls of solid steel relentlessly crushed it. More glass shattered. One of the wheel axles snapped with the sound of a thunderbolt. Darkness began to close in. Alex grabbed hold of what was left of the back seat. Ahead of him he could see a single triangle of light, shrinking faster and faster. With all his strength, he surged forward.

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