



Rewarding Learning

General Certificate of Secondary Education  
Summer 2025

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]

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TUESDAY 20 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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## 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 essay for the examiner about your favourite teacher.**

**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.**



Source: © 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) Write an essay for the examiner about your favourite teacher.**

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**Three tasks: 50 minutes. Mark allocation: 62 marks**

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## Reading Non-fiction

**Tasks 3 and 4** are based on two extracts from a newspaper article about Artificial Intelligence:

**“The AI doctor will see you now”**

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

The text below is the beginning of the article.

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

### The AI doctor will see you now

Pioneer of Artificial Intelligence technology, Geoffrey Hinton, has issued a stark warning about the latest developments in AI software. Canadian computer scientist Hinton spoke out after it was announced that an AI programme had passed a final year medical exam: “Have no doubt about it, chatbots could soon outsmart humans.”

Medical exams are notoriously difficult to pass because of the level of knowledge and expertise required. The fact that a computer programme has been successful marks a spine-chilling milestone and propels humanity firmly into the realm of Science Fiction. This may suggest that AI could signal the demise of many of society’s most established jobs.

The argument about the potential threat of AI has been in the public domain in recent years. In 2023, over 1,000 industry experts (including SpaceX mogul Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak) petitioned for a pause on the dangerous race to advance Artificial Intelligence.

Some believe the time has come to take action before humans lose control. How real is the risk from robots?

*Source: Adapted from The Great AI debate explodes yet again as ‘godfather’ of the technology quits Google | Daily Mail Online*

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

The text below is part of the same article.

**Explain how the writer has presented his views on the positives of Artificial Intelligence for use in medicine.**

The world's greatest minds are split over whether Artificial Intelligence will enhance or harm our lives. Perhaps this is another example of humanity becoming unnecessarily worried about progress.

History is littered with examples of welcome developments initially being greeted with mistrust, for example, organ transplants, antibiotics and vaccinations. Despite the controversy, many are still heralding the use of AI as an equally important innovation.

One breakthrough AI model was shown to determine a person's likelihood of developing a range of medical conditions, such as diabetes, with staggering accuracy. The clever computing innovation used both existing resources and self-generating, specialised algorithms to diagnose those with the highest risk profile. And it did so in a heartbeat.

The belief that Artificial Intelligence can sensationally transform medical treatment in the coming years is anything but artificial. Very soon we could see an AI doctor to help with hay fever or to make that verruca vanish.

*Source: Adapted from The Great AI debate explodes yet again as 'godfather' of the technology quits Google | Daily Mail Online*

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**THIS IS THE END OF THE QUESTION PAPER**

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**General Certificate of Secondary Education  
2025**

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## **English Language**

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

**[GEN41]**

**TUESDAY 20 MAY, MORNING**

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**THIS INSERT IS FOR USE WITH TASK 2**

### Text A

The sun hung low in the sky like a giant golden coin spilling sunbeams across the rippling waters of the lake. The electric roar of excited spectators, mixed with the sharp smell of fuel, filled the air with expectation.

At the heart of the event stood the sleek, cutting-edge boats, each one a marvel of engineering, speed and technical development. Among the competitors was Leigh, a talented racer with a passion for pushing the limits of The Thunderbolt, a streamlined vessel, capable of staggering speeds.

As the race commenced, the boats shot forward, their powerful engines propelling them across the lake's surface. The water churned in their wake, forming foamy white crests that looked like galloping horses.

Quickly, Leigh became locked in a fierce competition with Skye, who was a seasoned racer aboard The Tempest. They navigated sharp turns and treacherous waves, their faces hidden behind mirrored helmets that gleamed in the sunlight.

The two were neck and neck as they entered the final stretch. Leigh pushed The Thunderbolt to its limit.

Faster. Harder. Stronger.

The wind whipped as the boat surged forward. Skye matched the pace. Eyes locked on the finish line, but had it been left too late to secure victory?

There it was! The finish line.

The Thunderbolt managed to gain a slight edge and inched ahead. With a final burst of speed, it crossed the finish line just a split second before The Tempest.

*Source: Examiner*

### Text B

The roar of the engines pierced the night, their metallic symphony reverberating throughout the world-famous Daytona International Speedway. The moon, a silent witness, contrasted with the wild and unbridled joy of the crowd, and the spectacle that was about to unfold.

The bikes snarled beneath their riders. They were hungry for the thrill of the race. Each gripping the road like a predator stalking its prey, every curve and bend would be conquered with ease.

Three. Two. One.

An ear-bending sound erupted!

The race began in a blur of motion, the bikes weaving like phantoms in the night. The track lights melted into streaks of colour, as if the world itself was being consumed by speed. Each twist of the throttle was a thunderclap, each turn a lightning strike.

Reaching the final lap, the two favourites were wheel-to-wheel, commanding their machines with the precision of masters, swift, agile and alert in this midnight clash.

Turning the final corner they could see the chequered flag.

Spurred on by the roaring Daytona faithful, who would forever remember this night, the two racing gods clashed in the battle for supremacy. The gathered crowd grew even louder and wilder as the engines desperately surged onwards.

*Source: Examiner*