

## GCSE English Language Writing Papers

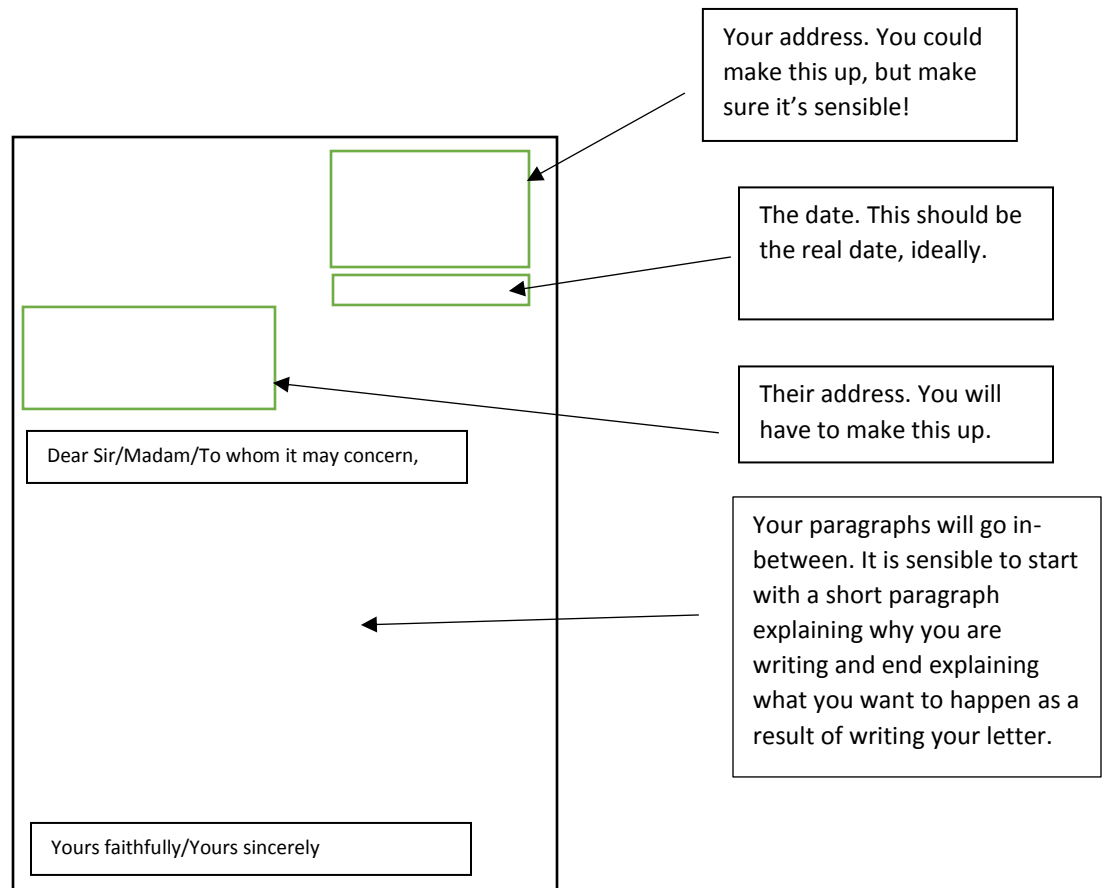
### Paper 1 – Narrative Writing

- You will have **45 minutes** to answer this question.
- You will have a choice of **4 titles/prompts** and you have to choose **ONE** to turn into a piece of Narrative Writing.
- You are only advised to write 450 – 600 words. This is likely to only be 2 – 3 pages.
- This means you must not be **too ambitious** in what is going to actually happen in your story. You won't have the time to tell a story that has a complex narrative.
- Spend 5 minutes **planning** your story. You should focus on having one main character, as you won't have the time to develop multiple characters.
- When you plan your story you could use the following structure: **Exposition:** Introduce your main character and set the scene. You want to include lots of descriptive language and use language to create your desired atmosphere. **Rising action:** What is the main conflict in your story? What does your character have to do, or overcome? **Climax:** This is where the drama/tension should be at its highest and where your main event happens in your narrative. **Falling action:** What has happened as a result of the event in the climax? **Resolution:** How does the situation resolve itself? You need to decide on how you want to leave your reader feeling.
- Remember that you are being marked on your ability to use **language** and **other techniques** for **deliberate effect** on your reader.

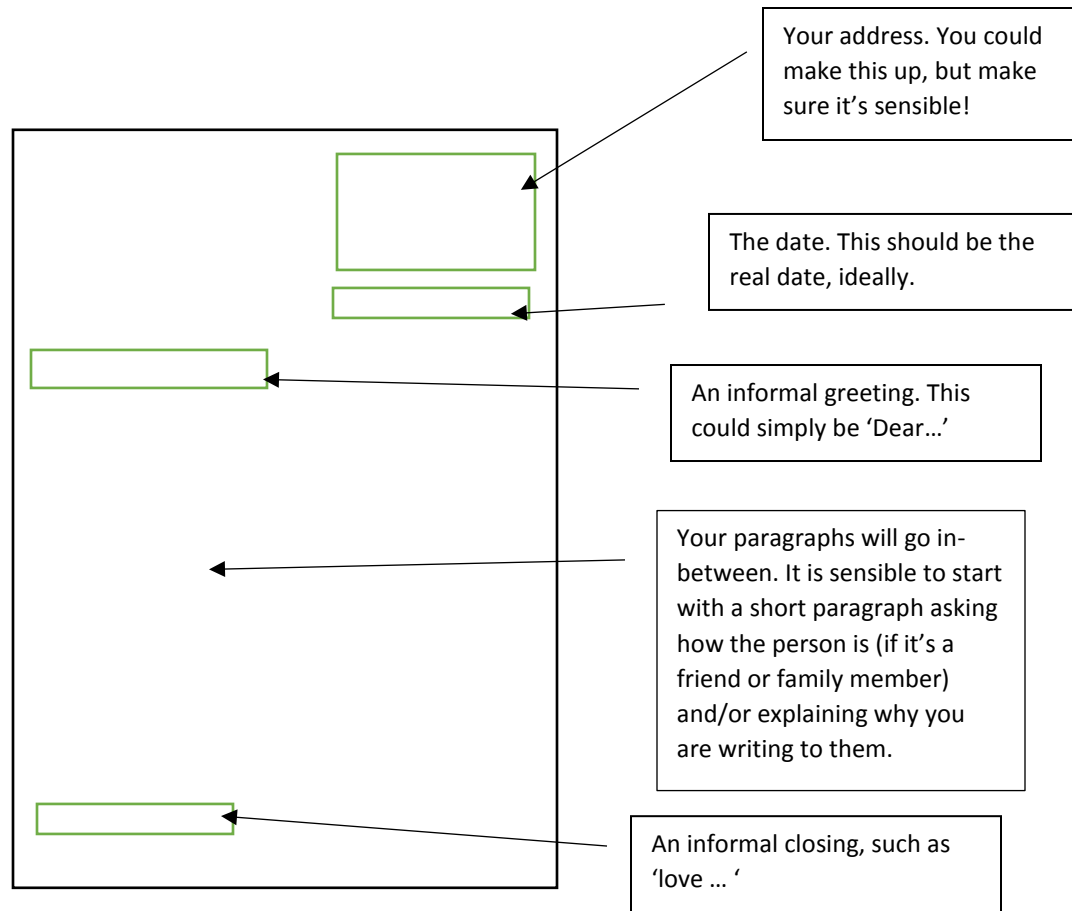
### Paper 2 – Non-Fiction Writing

For this paper you will have to answer **TWO** questions and you are given **30 minutes** to answer each question. Each question could ask you to write in the following forms. When you read the question you need to identify the following: **FORM** (what form are you being asked to write in?) **AUDIENCE** (who are you writing to? Should you write in a formal or informal way?) **PURPOSE** (Why are you writing it? To inform, to persuade, to advise, to entertain?) You must identify these things before you begin your planning, or it will negatively affect your mark. Spend 5 minutes of your 30 minutes planning each question.

#### FORMAL LETTER



## INFORMAL LETTER



## ARTICLE

- An article must start with a **Headline**. You could use a pun or alliteration to make your **Headline** more interesting. Please don't spend time worrying about what your headline is, as it's just important you show the examiner you know you should include one!
- You could choose to include a sub-heading.
- Read the question carefully and ensure you work out that the **PURPOSE** of you writing the article is. For example, are you being asked to argue or persuade, or inform or describe. Pay attention to whether you are asked to write a "lively" article. If you are, then part of your purpose is to be entertaining.
- Pay attention to what **TYPE** of newspaper/magazine you are being asked to write for. This will help you decide who your **AUDIENCE** is supposed to be.

## REPORT

- A report is always going to be formal.
- You will have to imagine you have been investigating whatever the question is going to ask you to write a report on.
- It is particularly important to use facts and statistics in a report.
- You must organise your report under headings. You could choose to use the following headings: **Introduction** (why you are writing the report and what you are writing it on), **Data Collection** (how you carried out your investigation, e.g. interviews, surveys, data analysis etc.) **Findings** (what you found out as a result of your data collection) **Recommendations** (what you recommend should happen as a result of your findings) **Conclusion**

## REVIEW

- If you're asked to write a review then the question will give you the choice of what you have to write a review about, if it is a film, tv show or book, for example.
- You could be asked to write a review of facilities in your local area, for example, but it is more likely to be one of the above.
- A review is all about you getting your person, critical opinion about something.
- It is sensible to go into the exam with a plan of what you would choose to review, if you had a choice, and do something research into this beforehand.
- Do not 're-tell' the story of whatever it is you are reviewing. You have to write about your opinion and response to it.
- You could include the following sections: Title of your review (what you are reviewing) brief summary of your overall opinion, basic information about the plot, favourite moment/scene/character, or what you thought went well, least favourite moment/scene/character, or what you thought was the least effective and then close with a recommendation for who you think would enjoy it and give it a rating.

## SPEECH

- A speech is likely going to ask to argue or persuade, but this might not always be the case.
- You need to begin your speech with an appropriate opening, for example "Good afternoon" and explain who you are and what you are going to be speaking about. You should conclude your speech by giving the listeners something to think about (maybe through a rhetorical question?) and finish by writing "Thank you for listening."
- Consider who your audience is going to be by reading the question carefully.

## LEAFLET/GUIDE

- The purpose of a leaflet/guide is likely to be to inform and describe.
- The layout of your leaflet will depend on what you are being asked to write a leaflet about. When planning your leaflet, you should decide on the headings you are going to organise your information under.
- You could choose to use bullet points in your leaflet, however, only do this in places, not throughout.
- Do not include pictures.
- Do include a title for your leaflet.

## AFOREST Techniques

You will be marked on your ability to write in the correct form and for the correct audience and purpose (so read the question very carefully), as well as being marked on your ability to use language and techniques for deliberate effect. Some of the techniques you could choose to use can be remembered using the following acronym. This isn't an exhaustive list, however, it is important that you include these techniques throughout your writing.

A – Alliteration

F – Facts

O – Opinion

R – Rhetorical Question/Repetition

E – Emotive Language/Exaggeration

S – Statistics

T – Rule of Three