

Section -C:

Write a Killer Creative Writing Essay in

Section C, English Language B

Are you tired of receiving poor marks in section C of English language B? Just follow these four simple tricks to massively improve your test score in the upcoming IGCSE exam with superior writing skills.

So, you are looking for ways to improve the structure and quality of your writing to achieve higher marks in your exams. For some, Section C is their favorite part of the paper, for it does not test any reading or analytical skills of the person. While for others, it's the most troublesome and time-consuming task to complete with creativity and excellence. English Language B has always been a moderately complex subject for people like me. Personally speaking, I had many issues coping with the paper myself. I wouldn't have enough time to manage Section C after handling A and B. I had to make up somehow by reducing the quantity of my writing at times, which affected the whole quality. Choosing between the three options was like having to pick to go to any of the three of my favorite travel destinations. And trust me, was it such a baptism of fire for me. Even I struggled to achieve good scores on my mocks because of how poorly I used to present my writing in that dreadful last section. But as difficult and hopeless as it may seem, do not worry because there is still light at the end of the tunnel. Yes, I possess a few weapons in my arsenal that I was able to acquire by my utmost desire to get better at English. And that I am going to share with you all right now, so sit back and relax because here is how to have a better chance at acing Section C in your exams.

Getting familiar with the types of writing

Three options are given to the examinees to write in Section-C:

- *“Any particular topic” DISCUSS/TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS?*
- *WRITE A STORY (true or imaginary) entitled “It could be anything so if you cannot come up with something creative in an instant, it’s better not to go for this.”*
- *DESCRIBE a “place/person/movie/time/etc.”*

The first option is a discussion topic. It can be as simple as a general quote, a stereotype, or someone’s opinion, etc. When you are told to discuss that statement or explain how much you agree with it, you are being asked to narrate to the readers your whole thought process of how you perceive the question based on actual theories or proof related to it. This may or may not include facts supporting or arguing against the topic.

The second option generally tells you to write a story already entitled, and based only on that title; you have to come up with something creative and out of the box to grab the readers’ attention. It’s totally up to you, the writer, on what tone the story will have and what kind of readers it should attract.

The third option is a descriptive writing that might ask you to describe any of a variety of things, from a place to even a movie. Often, this may be adapted into personal writing, which most people prefer over any other option because it's simpler to write more and well about subjects you know everything about. You'd think it would be easy to pick one and stick with it from all of these options. But during the exam, you must make the right decision, taking into account how much time you have left. After going through Section-A and B, most students have about 40

to 60 minutes left to come up with something quantifiable for Section-C writing. The best way to go about this is to select the piece of writing you are most experienced with, regardless of the topic given. Now it doesn't mean you should write about something that you have no idea of. Taking a gamble and going with something that you don't often choose to write in the main exams wouldn't be much of a wise thing to do, even if it's the genre you're best at. Your writing is awarded based on the quality of its content and how well it clearly describes the entire topic. So, keep in mind that writing more words doesn't mean anything good unless they make sense and prove your points properly to the reader.

Things to do to improve your writing skills

1. READ. Read as many books as you can. It may be a novel, a comic, or just about anything. Reading allows you to gain more perspective on different genres of text. When you're hooked on a story, you'll find yourself immersed in it as the writer uses different sets of language skills like metaphors, colloquial language, cliches, assonance, etc., to make his narration exciting. There are plenty of places to look around for any kinds of books that you may be interested in. Keep in mind that it doesn't have to be a book only. Newspapers, articles, blogs; different genres of writing will allow you to widen your field of expertise in writing. The more you read, the more your writing skills will flourish as you would be able to apply your internal knowledge externally.

2. MOVIES. The one thing that's ought to help you out the most if you pay to heed to the dialogues and the plot instead of being a sucker for action films/scenes only. Watching a good movie with a meaningful plotline, relatable characters, and eye-catching details around scenes, has not harmed anyone. Watch documentaries, dramas, fiction, sci-fi, rom coms, etc.; anything that particularly grabs your attention. Pay close attention to what dialogues are exchanged between characters and their tones of speaking. How they talk normally, should give you some ideas when you get to write something on a personal note too. Also, this helps broaden your vocabulary as well since there may be many words or phrases for you to apply to your own sets of skills. Jot down those new pieces of information on a single notepad. Keep track of every new thing you have learned after watching a different movie. And don't forget to use them in your writings. This brings me to my next piece of advice.

3. WRITE. Sit down. Take a paper and a pen. Start writing down anything that comes to your mind and keep going for 15-30 minutes. Utilize your brain to think harder and continue to write until it appears to be comprehension. It doesn't have to be the most professionally written piece of writing yet. Whatever you write would be one of your thoughts; maybe about the day, maybe about some specific place or person, or a topic that has your interest. Apply the new set of vocabulary skills that you had previously learned, to your writings. While doing so, you would be subconsciously memorizing the use of it in your brain for the next time you're writing something again. Then, start writing an essay, or a story, or describing anything in particular and try to complete that within a short time. Since you're going to attend a 3 hour exam, you should be able to write at a constant pace to keep up with the paper. It's important to remember that during the exams, there won't be much time for you to think thoroughly before writing something. Practicing to decide what you want to write and making a

plan in a short time is essential to score high in this section. Once you're used to learning new words, phrases, and techniques and can apply them to your daily writing practices, you will have grasped the ability to come up with something creative and unique in a short time that will keep readers 'minds captivated in your narration.

4. Don't be repetitive. In Section C, that's the last thing anyone would want to do because of how easily it irritates the readers to see that the writer can't use proper English vocabulary to write something interesting. Use different language techniques such as assonance or alliteration to allow the readers to find your writing rich. Many tend to use the same words and phrases over and over again while describing something in an essay. To avoid doing so, learn new stuff and explain your points using those only.

And that should be it.

When you're sitting in the exam hall next time, don't panic about Section C. Most students go through Section-A and B first before moving on to the next. And while that seems to help them, don't let that decide how you are going to write things on your exam. If creative writing is the one that you've prepared for most, feel free to complete that section first. Time management seems to be an issue to many, so it's important not to spend too much on a single section. Even so, Section C requires more creativity and vocabulary skills than the first two. Keeping these things in mind before you sit for your exams is enough for you to score well in Section-C. Remember that your choice of writing is eventually going to decide how many marks you can gain there as well, so writing with confidence is the key to allowing your chances of a higher score to increase. As long as you can maintain persuasive

language and strong narrative, Section-C will be a walk in the park for you.

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