STUDENT QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOKLET

AQA-style Paper 1 - A choice of futures

GCSE English Language | 8700/1 · 2026 question approach

Standard time	With approved 25% extra time
1h 45m	**2h 11m 15s**

80 marks | Section A: 40 marks | Section B: 40 marks

Independent Exam Stash practice paper. All questions, tasks and indicative teacher guidance are original. This is not an official AQA or Eduqas paper and is not endorsed by either board.

Read the source guide on the following page before you start. You need the original Eduqas source file(s) alongside this booklet. Source texts are linked separately and are not reproduced here.

Use the printed reading references specified in each question. The original Eduqas questions, instructions and timings do not apply to this practice paper.

This 80-mark practice set uses only original printed lines 32-74 of the linked Eduqas June 2024 fiction source (approximately 630 words). The questions follow the AQA Paper 1 skills, mark allocations and 2026 question approach. The original Eduqas questions, timings and instructions do not apply. This paper has not been trialled or standardised by an awarding body; do not use official grade boundaries to assign it a GCSE grade.

Name: _____

Class / date: _____

Answer all Section A questions and the Section B task(s) as directed. Write in this booklet. Use your agreed access arrangements and leave time to check your writing.

Source guide

Source A: Alice and Jack on the farm - Eduqas June 2024 fiction selection

Official Eduqas C700U10-1A resource booklet, PDF pages 2-3, ORIGINAL PRINTED LINES 32-74 ONLY. Line numbers refer to the printed text, not PDF line extraction.

Open the original Eduqas source file

Reading instructions

You need the linked Eduqas source booklet open beside this question paper and the answer booklet or separate paper for your answers.

Source A for this paper is ONLY the section from original printed line 32 to original printed line 74, inclusive. Read this selection carefully before answering. Do not read lines 75-83 for this practice task.

Keep the original printed line numbers: do not renumber the selection from 1. The first selected line is printed line 32, beginning with the passing of time; the last selected line is printed line 74, ending with the youngest Paget son’s aptitude for farming.

Context: Alice lives on a farm in Australia with her father, Jack. His sister had argued that Alice should grow up in town, but Alice stayed with him.

Answer all questions in Section A and ONE of the two writing tasks in Question 5.

Suggested allocation: about 15 minutes reading, then about 45 minutes answering Section A and 45 minutes on Section B. These are planning suggestions, not separate timed sections.

For Question 1, shade one circle inside a box for each item. If you change your answer, cross out the whole box clearly and shade the new choice.

Section A - Reading

Question 1 | 4 marks

Read the first part of the selected Source A, original printed lines 32-38. Answer all four questions below. Shade one circle inside a box for each question. Each correct answer is worth 1 mark.

1(a) How did Jack's sister respond to his success in raising Alice?

- ○ A. She praised him frequently and enthusiastically.
- ○ B. She was privately disappointed and praised him reluctantly.
- ○ C. She refused to meet him again.

1(b) Where did Jack take Alice each morning?

- ○ A. To visit her aunt.
- ○ B. To work in the fields.
- ○ C. To school in town.

1(c) What does the passage tell us about collecting Alice after school?

- ○ A. Jack always arrived on time.
- ○ B. Jack usually sent another farmer.
- ○ C. Jack often forgot when work was busy.

1(d) Who chose the clothes Jack bought for Alice?

- ○ A. Jack's sister.
- ○ B. Alice herself.
- ○ C. Alice's teacher.

Section A - Reading

Question 2 | 8 marks

Look in detail at original printed lines 46-55. How does the writer use language to show Alice's response to the possibility of art school? Support your analysis with short references to this part of the source. You could consider particular words and phrases, language features, and sentence forms.

Section A - Reading

Question 3 | 8 marks

You now need to think about the whole of OUR selected source: original printed lines 32-74. How has the writer structured this selection to create tension about Alice's future? You could consider what is established at the beginning, how the focus or pace changes, and the effect of the ending.

Section A - Reading

Question 4 | 20 marks

Focus this part of your answer on the later part of OUR selected source, original printed lines 59-74. “Jack’s answer appears to give Alice freedom, but the writing shows how difficult it will be for her to use that freedom.” To what extent do you agree and/or disagree? Evaluate the impressions the writer creates, comment on the methods used, and support your judgement with references to this part of the source.

Question 4 continued

Section B - Writing

Question 5 | 40 marks

Section B: Writing. You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question, including planning and checking. Choose ONE task. EITHER write a description of a place where somebody is about to make an important decision, using the picture as a starting point. You may use your imagination: you do not have to describe the exact scene in the picture. OR write the opening of a story in which somebody is offered an unexpected opportunity. You do not need to write a complete story. (24 marks for content and organisation; 16 marks for technical accuracy.)



Original Exam Stash writing stimulus. Use the image as a starting point for your imagination.

Planning space (not marked)

Question 5 - write your answer

Question 5 continued