TEACHER GUIDANCE

AQA-style Paper 1 - Rosabel, 2026 approach

GCSE English Language | 8700/1 · new questions on an older AQA source

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

Total: 80 marks. Indicative marking notes.

Original Exam Stash practice, independently written. Not an official paper and not endorsed by AQA, Eduqas or OCR. Read the linked original source booklet alongside these questions. The source text is not reproduced here. Use the printed source line numbers, not the PDF viewer line count.

Original questions apply the 2026 question approach to the older AQA source. This is additional practice, not a replacement or revision of AQA's official 2017 questions. Suggested timing: about 60 minutes reading/Section A, 45 minutes Section B.

Source booklet - open before starting

Source A: The Tiredness of Rosabel — Katherine Mansfield (1908)

AQA June 2017 8700/1 Insert, PDF pages 2–3, printed lines 1–45.

Open the original source booklet

Freely accessible source booklet on the existing PMT archive, downloaded and checked 15 November 2026. AQA source layout is linked rather than reproduced.

Using this guidance

Indicative guidance is flexible: credit accurate alternative readings supported by the specified source. Do not require the ideas listed here.

For extended reading, select the best-fitting band first, then decide a mark within it. Consider evidence, explanation and precision across the whole response.

These practice materials have not been standardised by an awarding body. Report marks and feedback, not GCSE grades.

Question 1 | 4 marks | AO1

Read lines 1–5. Answer all four questions. Shade one circle for each question. Each correct answer earns 1 mark.

1(a) C; 1(b) B; 1(c) A; 1(d) C. Award 1 mark per correct selection.

Question 2 | 8 marks | AO2

Focus on lines 19–22. How does Mansfield use language to make the red-haired girl and her companion seem impressive to Rosabel? Support your response with short references.

Analyse the visual description, association with fine materials and foreign luxury, the carriage and the approving presentation of the companion. Explain the impression created, rather than listing evidence of money.

Use 1–2 simple comment; 3–4 some explanation; 5–6 clear developed explanation; 7–8 perceptive detailed analysis.

Question 3 | 8 marks | AO2

Think about the whole source. How does Mansfield organise the extract to build our understanding of Rosabel’s frustration? Consider changes in time, focus, pace or perspective.

Consider the present journey and unmet physical needs, the move into remembered work, increasing focus on one customer and the final collision of private emotion with professional speech. Connect the order of information to the reader’s understanding.

Use four 2-mark bands, assessing structure in context. Do not reward word-level analysis unless it explains an organisational effect.

Question 4 | 20 marks | AO4

Focus on lines 29–45. “Rosabel appears helpful and composed, but this part of the extract reveals how much effort that appearance costs her.” How far do you agree and/or disagree? Evaluate the writing and support your judgement with references to this section.

Evaluate her search for the right hat, customers' demands and apparent kindness, her private anger and final professional response. Different degrees of agreement can be supported.

1–5 simple judgement; 6–10 some supported evaluation; 11–15 clear sustained evaluation; 16–20 convincing perceptive evaluation with judicious references.

Question 5 | 40 marks | AO5:24 / AO6:16

Section B — allow about 45 minutes. Choose ONE task. EITHER describe a city street as evening falls after a long working day. OR write the opening of a story in which somebody wants a different life. Use your imagination; your response does not need to retell Rosabel's story. Plan briefly and check your writing.

Award AO5 (24 marks) for an effective, convincing response to the chosen task, controlled viewpoint and tone, purposeful organisation, developed ideas and ambitious vocabulary used appropriately. Strong writing selects detail; it need not contain a complete plot.

Award AO6 (16 marks) independently for controlled sentence structures, accurate punctuation and spelling and secure grammar. Reward accuracy and deliberate variation, not length or a count of techniques.

Use the current official board writing descriptors to moderate marks. These are original indicative notes, not an official mark scheme or a promise of a grade.

Assessment format references

Official AQA assessment guidance