MP - 2026 QUESTION APPROACH

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. Write answers on separate paper.

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.

Instructions

Answer all Section A questions. Write responses on separate paper. Read the source booklet before starting; its original board instructions and timing do not apply to this practice set. Use the standard time unless a different arrangement has been agreed. The 25% figure is a practice planning aid for pupils with approved extra time.

Question 1 | 4 marks

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

1(a) What has Rosabel bought?

- ○ A. A new hat
- ○ B. A hot dinner
- ○ C. Flowers

1(b) Where has she been working?

- ○ A. A café
- ○ B. A hat shop
- ○ C. A flower stall

1(c) What is she boarding?

- ○ A. A bus
- ○ B. A train
- ○ C. A carriage

1(d) What does she most want at this moment?

- ○ A. More customers
- ○ B. A different skirt
- ○ C. A filling hot meal

Question 2 | 8 marks

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.

Question 3 | 8 marks

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.

Question 4 | 20 marks

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.

Question 5 | 40 marks

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.