ORIGINAL PRACTICE QUESTIONS

AQA-style Paper 2 - Places to play

GCSE English Language | 8700/2 · 2026 question approach

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.

Shorter-source practice: this uses a shorter reading selection than a full examination would normally use. Question skills, marks and suggested timing follow the named board, but this is not a full specification-equivalent mock. Do not apply past grade boundaries to this practice paper. Suggested timing: about 60 minutes reading/Section A and 45 minutes Section B.

Source booklet - open before starting

Source A: This Boy — Alan Johnson (2013)

OCR June 2022 J351/01 Insert, PDF page 5, Text 2, printed lines 1–28. This modern text is Source A in our AQA-style set.

Open the original source booklet

21st-century memoir describing a 1950s childhood. The publication date, rather than the events described, determines the text century. Linked source only; not republished.

Source B: Walks in and around London — Uncle Jonathan (1884)

Same booklet, PDF page 4, Text 1, printed lines 1–30. This older text is Source B in our AQA-style set.

Open the original source booklet

19th-century non-fiction. Both selections are present in the freely accessible OCR PDF checked 15 November 2026.

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 Source A (Alan Johnson), lines 1–9. Select FOUR true statements from A–H. Shade the circle beside each of your four choices.

- ○ A. Johnson sometimes joined competitive playground games.
- ○ B. He spent most of his free time fighting in the street.
- ○ C. Linda was more outgoing than her brother.
- ○ D. Linda disliked skipping.
- ○ E. He enjoyed creating an imaginary world indoors.
- ○ F. Lily forbade Linda to go outdoors with her rope.
- ○ G. Lily was concerned about boys facing trouble outside.
- ○ H. Johnson found it difficult to stay away from dangerous places.

Question 2 | 8 marks

Use both sources. Summarise the differences in the opportunities children have to enjoy themselves safely. Support your summary with evidence from each source and make inferences from the details you select.

Question 3 | 12 marks

Read Source A (Johnson), lines 10–20. How does Johnson use language to make the danger in his childhood world vivid? Support your analysis with specific references.

Question 4 | 16 marks

Compare the writers’ attitudes towards the adults who shape children’s lives. Explain similarities and differences in their viewpoints and how the writers convey them. Use evidence from both sources.

Question 5 | 40 marks

Section B — allow about 45 minutes. “Every young person should have a safe, welcoming place nearby where they can spend time without having to buy anything.” Write an article for a local news website arguing your view. Address the needs of young people and the wider community.