## GCSE English Language

**Supporting Your Child** 



#### Understanding the Course

- 60% Exam:
  - Unit 1: fiction
  - Unit 2: Non-fiction
- 40% Controlled Assessment



#### **Key Dates**

- Mock exams:12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November
- Unit 1: 13<sup>th</sup> January
- Unit 2: 21st January
- Literature unit 1 resit: 9<sup>th</sup> January
- Speaking and Listening: 19<sup>th</sup> February

#### Supporting Reading

- What types of questions might be asked?
  - Locating information (list details, what evidence, what do you learn...?)
  - What are the writer's thoughts and feelings about...?
  - What impression do you get of...?
  - How does the writer persuade...?
  - Compare how both texts...(unit 2)



#### Reading: What is PEE/TQE?

- Point/ Evidence (quotation)/ explanation
- Technique/ Evidence/ Explanation



## How does Davidson try to prove that Manchester is the perfect place for a city break?

He also says Manchester is great for young people, using informal, colloquial language such as a 'funky' restaurant and a 'seriously cool' hotel to appeal to a more juvenile audience.



# What does a C grade reading response look like?

Davidson uses many techniques throughout the first half of the internet article in order to prove that Manchester is a 'perfect place for a city break.'

Firstly, in the caption below the title, Davidson says that Manchester is the 'perfect place' to go and the alliterative phrase entices the reader and somehow makes Manchester seem appealing. This positive vocabulary to describe the city such as 'great' is also continued throughout the article, constantly giving the reader this positive attitude to Manchester. Davidson also uses repetition to enforce certain messages about Manchester such as it 'never blows its own trumpet', making Manchester seem modest and not ostentatious.

Davidson also tries to make Manchester appeal to almost any audience, making it sound like a 'perfect city break for all.' He uses lists to say that Manchester is 'accessible, reasonably compact, but blessed with a bewildering variety of attractions.' This triplet and use of alliterative language builds on the idea of Manchester being 'perfect' each time. Davidson says that it is great for families, giving examples to prove this such as 'Legoland Discovery Centre' He describes it as a 'complete package' which is ideal for families



#### Practical Tips

- Get pupils to highlight the key words in the questionexplain the question in their own words.
- Create sample questions using non-fiction texts such as leaflets and magazine articles.
- Get them to label the TQE/ PEE sections in their answer.
- Get pupils to count how many different points they've made in their answer (answers are worth 10 marks).
- Encourage them to read- both literature texts and also for pleasure.
- When reading, encourage them to look up difficult words in the dictionary.

### Supporting Writing

#### Unit 1

Narrative writing

#### Unit 2

- Speeches
- Formal or informal letters
- Leaflets
- Articles
- Reports
- Reviews



#### What does a C grade piece of writing look like?

Home address included

Newspaper address included

Dear Sir/Madam.

I am writing in complaint of the plan to build a supermarket on land which is currently being used by local youngsters to play sport. I have three main reasons why I feel the need to complain about this plan. Firstly, it will put local shops out of business, it is also going to destroy a valuable amenity for youngsters and finally I believe we already have enough supermarkets in our

First of all, I would like to focus on the fact that if the plan goes ahead, it will put many local shops out of business. Many of these small shops have been here for years and local people like the service they get. If a supermarket is built on this land, the local people will shop in the supermarket because of the cheap offers. and our local shops will make no money and have to close. This has happened in other parts of the town and it just leads to lots of empty shops. At the moment, people are happy to use local shops in our part of town and lots of older people would rather shop in a small corner shop because it isn't as big and doesn't get so chaotic. It's true that supermarkets get more shoppers because they sell more things and there is more variety, but I'm sure many people would not like one if it means all their local shops end up closing down.

Secondly, if the supermarket chain continues with this plan and the plan gets confirmed, they will be destroying a valuable amenity for youngsters. Most parents would rather their children to be in a park playing sport or with friends than out on the street where something dangerous could happen. By going ahead with this plan they are putting young children at risk of being in danger because they would have nowhere to play, and therefore would have to play on the streets. How would you feel if it was your child being put at risk of danger because a supermarket chain have built a supermarket over the childrens playground? 70% of children prefer to play on a playground than in a street.

My final point is that there are already enough supermarkets around the local area, so why do we need another one? With too many supermarkets and shops around, it is making it hard for the locals that live in the area and shop in these shops because they have to choose which shop to shop in. Many people would rather have one local shop or supermarket in the area instead of a couple alongside other empty shops

I hope that with this letter I have got my opinion across very clearly and that this issue is thought about very strongly.

Yours faithfully,



#### Common Mistakes

- Punctuation
- Spelling
- Sentence structure
- Lacks detail
- Paragraphing
- Structure



- Get your son/ daughter to read their work aloud/ read it to them.
- Use exercise books to identify common spelling errors.
- Work with them to identify punctuation mistakes. Get them to highlight where they've used apostrophes/ capital letters etc correctly.
- Get them writing under timed conditions.
- Use teacher targets in their book to help them focus-pupils should be able to label where they have met these targets.

#### Varying their writing

- Openers:
  - Connectives: Then, All of a sudden, In addition
  - 'ing' verbs: Hurrying, Jumping, Running
  - Adverbs: Suddenly, Happily, Miserably
- Connectives:
  - Moreover, furthermore, in contrast, therefore, as a result
- Vocabulary:
  - Collect some more sophisticated words pupils could use in their writing.
  - Encourage them to identify three words to change in every written piece.





