



Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

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Candidate number

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Surname

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Forename(s)

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Candidate signature

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I declare this is my own work.

GCSE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Tuesday 7 November 2023

Morning

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- **Source A** – provided as a separate insert.

Instructions

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all five questions you have to answer.
- You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

For Examiner's Use

Question	Mark
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
TOTAL	

Section A: Reading

Answer **all** questions in this section.

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

0 1

0 1 Read again the first part of the source, from lines 1 to 5

Answer **all** parts of this question.

Tick (✓) **one** box for each question.

0 1 . 1 What was Roland's favourite place?

His home.

☐

The London Library.

☐

The clock tower.

☐

[1 mark]

0 1 . 2 Where was Roland's table?

Behind a pillar.

☐

In the centre of the library.

☐

Beneath a window.

☐

[1 mark]

0 1 . 3 What could he see through the window?

St Mark's Square.

☐

St Luke's Square.

☐

St James's Square.

☐

[1 mark]

0 1 . 4 What was Roland looking for?

Old copies of Shakespeare.

☐

Old copies of Dickens.

☐

Old copies of Ash's Poetry.

☐

[1 mark]

0	2
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The librarian handed the book to Roland. It was immediately clear that the book had been undisturbed for a very long time, perhaps even since it had been laid to rest. It had been exhumed from the library safe where it usually stood. The book was thick and black and covered with dust, a black, thick, tenacious Victorian dust composed of smoke and fog particles. Its spine was missing, or, rather, protruded from amongst the leaves. Its covers were bowed and creaking; it had been maltreated in its own time. It was bandaged about and about with dirty white tape, tied in a neat bow. Roland undid the bindings. The book sprang apart, like a box, disgorging leaf after leaf of faded paper, blue, cream, grey, covered with rusty writing, the brown scratches of a steel nib.

How does the writer use language here to describe the book?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

[illegible]

Turn over ►

[illegible]

Turn over ►

0	3
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[8 marks]

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Turn over ►

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

It is clear that the letters Roland finds within the book must be something special. The writer shows us that it is not surprising that Roland steals them.

In your response, you could:

- [20 marks]**

[illegible]

09

Turn over ►

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

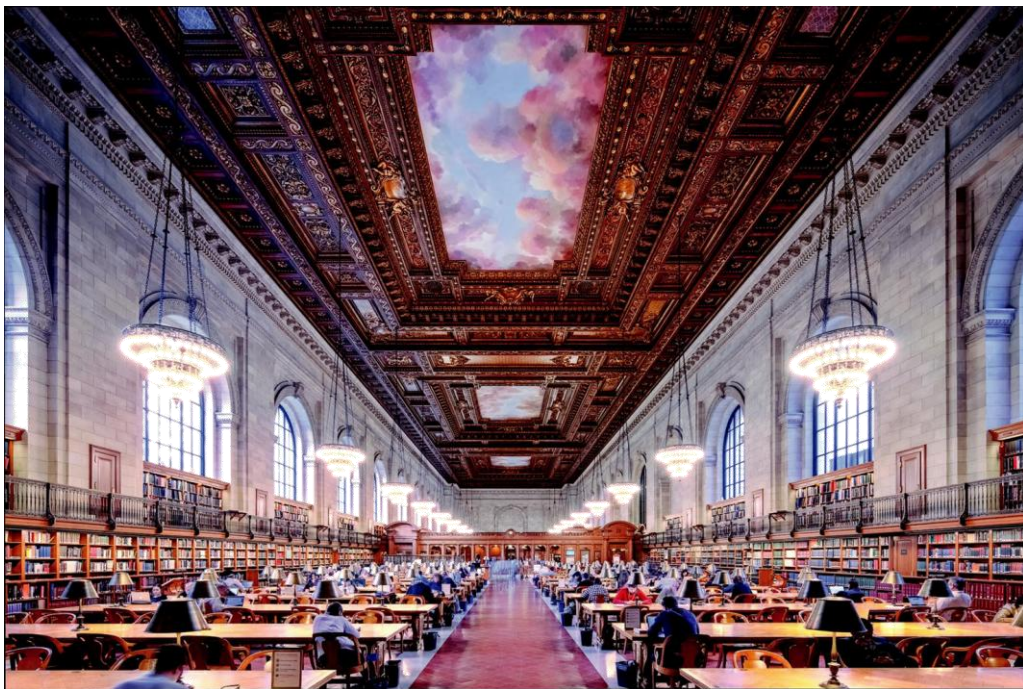
You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0 5 A magazine has asked for contributions for their creative writing section.

Either

Write a description of a library from your imagination. You may choose to use the picture provided for ideas.



or

Write the opening of a story about discovering a hidden object.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

Turn over ►

[illegible]

Turn over ►

Turn over ►

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outside the
box

Extra space for question 5 only (if needed)

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

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Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

[illegible]

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Question number	Additional page, if required. Write the question numbers in the left-hand margin.

There are no questions printed on this page

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**DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAGE
ANSWER IN THE SPACES PROVIDED**

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