

GCSE English Home Learning

Paper 2 Writing



The following tasks are for you to practise your Paper 2 writing skills at home.

Please read through all of the examples of texts that have been written in order to guide your own work.

Please also email me the work that you complete and if you have any questions; my email address is on the College website.

Miss Pedrick.

Task 1: Letter Writing

Watch the GCSEpod podcast on writing formal letters. It can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11266/68529>

As you listen, make notes on what you need to remember to include in letters – including the format to follow.

The question we are going to focus on for this task is:

“GCSE exam results being replaced by teacher predictions is unfair and will not allow students to achieve their highest possible grade following their revision.”

Write a letter to the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, arguing your point of view on this statement.

Firstly, you need to consider your argument to the statement; do you agree or disagree that teacher predictions instead of exam results would be unfair? Why? Why not? Complete the table below in order to record your ideas:

Teacher predictions are fair	Teacher predictions are unfair

Next, you need to plan in order to organise these ideas into a letter; bullet point a list of which points you are going to include in which paragraph of your letter – remember to include some counter arguments to show that you have considered what the other argument might be.

Then, read the example letter below – take note of how it is structured – and then write your own response to the question.

Once you have written your letter, email it to me. You can either type it up or send me a photograph of the work that you have completed. I will then send you some feedback!

Miss L. Pedrick,
Sir John Hunt CSC,
Whitleigh,
Plymouth.
PL5 4AA

Friday 3rd April, 2020.

Mr. Gavin Williamson,
The Houses of Parliament,
Westminster,
London.
W23 6AB

Dear Mr. Williamson,

Do you always manage to complete your work to the best of your ability? Do you never have a bad day? I'm concerned that, following the latest announcements from the Department of Education, students are going to be penalised for the 'bad days' they have had.

Many students, like myself, find GCSE English challenging and are currently in a 'Re-Sit' class in order to achieve a grade 4 in this qualification. These lessons are on a Friday morning due to my other commitments at College. 63% of students find Fridays at College challenging due to the fatigue the rest of a busy week causes and I am no different to this majority of students. Unlike my previous GCSE days, I only have one lesson a week – not the five lessons I did have – and this means that my teacher only marks the work I complete during this lesson.

This means, therefore, that your announcement today puts me at a significant disadvantage to year 11 GCSE students. My teacher has only marked and graded work that I have completed on a Friday morning when I am tired; this is not the best that I am able to achieve. If I were to sit my GCSE exam on a Tuesday and Thursday morning, as I was timetabled to, then I would not have the strain of a busy week on my mind and my writing would be significantly better than it usually is on a Friday morning.

Your decision for my grade to be decided by my teacher has failed me.

Obviously, I do not blame my teacher because they are only able to judge what I produce and I admit I could have done more in lessons that I have done. Your decision for the work I have done to dictate my grade will fail me and destroy my future dreams.

Please re-evaluate your decision and consider the impact this will have on young, future lives.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Pedrick

Task 2: Writing Articles

Firstly, we need to build up our skills on writing to explain our opinion in order to build a logical argument in our articles.

Watch the GCSEpod podcast on 'Writing to Explain and Describe' which can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/13617/81635>

As you watch, make a note of any interesting or useful ideas that you believe you will be able to use in constructing and structuring your article.

Next, watch the GCSEpod podcast on 'Writing an Article' which can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11266/68528>

It would be a good idea to make notes on how to write an article as you watch this podcast; it will help you when you come to write your own article in a minute.

The question we are going to focus on today is:

“Key workers are putting themselves in danger while trying to protect the lives of others and ensure our nation can get through this crisis. The government must do more in order to protect them.”

Write a newspaper article in order to explain your point of view on this statement.

It's important to plan our points before we begin to write in order to ensure we have structure our articles well.

Firstly, make a list of all the reasons why you agree or disagree with the above statement. For example,

- Doctors are needed in hospitals to care for the sick but are being exposed to high levels of the virus
- It is essential for delivery drivers to continue to work and their need to visit many different houses puts them at risk of the virus

When you've made your list (try and come up with ten different points) bullet point a list of 5 paragraphs and which points you will group together in each paragraph. It's important that your article follows a logical sequence and does not 'jump' back and forth across different ideas.

Once you've planned your article then have a go at writing it; have a look at my example below to help you.

When you've completed it, email it to me so that I can give you feedback. Either a document or a photograph of what you have written is fine.

The Heroes Society had Forgotten

Last Thursday, and seemingly every Thursday for the foreseeable future, the nation stands on their doorstep to 'Clap for the NHS'. It's an emotional sight, really, and the appreciation is not undeserved. These heroes are putting their lives on the line every day in order to save the lives of millions of people who have (or will) fall victim to the new enemy we seem to be fighting.

Now, I'm not taking anything away from the NHS; the doctors, nurses, NHS staff that are doing a fantastic job – which quite frankly, I wouldn't be able to do myself - deserve all the recognition they are receiving. But it does make me question, what about everyone else who are getting us through this?

Supermarket workers, for instance. A month ago, these jobs would have been described as 'low skilled labour'. 'Low skilled', implied to be unimportant, invisible to you as you wonder around the store. Now, almost overnight, these unsung heroes have been catapulted in to the 'key worker' bracket, up there with the doctors, nurses and NHS staff; essential to our fight against the coronavirus. If I'm totally honest, I'm a bit horrified. Horrified that it's taken a pandemic, a global emergency, for society to recognise the importance of the role that these people play. It's *An Inspector Calls*, all over again – but this time in a terrifying reality.

Stop, though. Just for a minute. Imagine if these 'low skilled' workers had been deemed 'unessential' and forced to stay at home, like so many of us. Where would we be then? Forget the need to stock pile toilet roll, we'd have nothing. No food. At all. Instead, these people are risking their health, every day. Every day, the shops are open and they are working tirelessly to ensure there is food on the shelf; every day delivery drivers are fulfilling the orders placed on line – the demand for home deliveries is so high that Tesco 'slots' are fully booked for the next three weeks. These people are essential to our nation; they're the only way we can continue to survive through these unprecedented times.

But still, they aren't receiving the help and recognition they deserve. The local news is full of stories of abuse towards staff, refusals to comply with the social distancing rules in the stores, attempting to ignore the restrictions on popular items. When did we, as a society, forget reason, logic and above all respect?

When this crisis is over; when you're allowed to be browsing the supermarkets again; when you're next in a checkout queue then just think back and remember – that 'low skilled' worker scanning your items was fundamental in the fight against coronavirus. Give them the recognition and respect that is truly deserved.

Task 3: Text for a Speech

In this task, we are writing a speech. You will have to remember that what you're writing would ideally be spoken, but you (obviously) can't perform your speech to the examiner.

Firstly, as we will be writing to argue, watch the GCSEpod podcast on 'Writing to Argue and Persuade'. You can find it here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/13617/81633>

Next, watch the GCSEpod podcast about 'Writing Speeches'. It can be found here:

<https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/11266/68531>

As you watch, make a note of all the elements you need to ensure you include in your answer in order to construct a successful speech. This list will be useful in the next task you need to do and also when you come to write your speech.

Next, watch Greta Thunberg's speech to the 2019 UN Climate Action Summit. It can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TMrtLsQbaok>

As you watch Thunberg's speech, you need to complete this table in order to record what techniques and rules she follows.

Rules followed from the GCSEpod	ICDAFOREST techniques used

The question we are going to focus on today is:

"The coronavirus pandemic has shown that international travel is not a necessity and should be limited."

Write the text of a speech to your year group arguing your point of view on this statement.

Firstly, what is your opinion on the above statement? Do you agree or disagree with it? Why?

Create a bullet pointed list of points that you could include when discussing the above statement.

Then, organise your points in to paragraphs – which points will you speak about in each paragraph. Remember, a speech needs to follow an ordered, logical sequence so that your audience can easily follow your ideas. Make sure you are not jumping back and forth between points as this would make it difficult for your audience to listen to and follow.

Finally, have a go at writing your speech yourself. When you're done, email it over to me (on a document or a photograph of what you have written – either is fine). Read through and look at my example below to help you:

Good afternoon,

Today marks twelve days in 'lock down'. Twelve days where people have not been permitted to leave their homes except for a strict and limited list of authorised reasons. When 'lockdown' was first imposed upon us, the wave of dread swept over me. How would we survive? Would I cope with twelve hours of being stuck inside, let alone twelve weeks? How would I work?

And now, here I am. Twelve days in. Twelve days in to three months of social isolation and, actually, it's not so bad. We're finding a routine and being at home with my little girl is quite nice, even if it's difficult to keep her entertained.

What I have noticed, however, is the quiet. There's very few cars on the road behind our house. There's no planes in the sky. The hustle and bustle of our busy, modern society has gone. Which leads me to the question – do we need *such* a busy life?

Look at any of the scientific projections and carbon measurements – our carbon output has virtually disappeared. We aren't throwing toxic gases into our delicate atmosphere any longer and I'm surviving. So, do I actually *need* to be throwing quite so much poison into the air in under 'normal' circumstances? Or can we use this as a warning; a warning that our planet cannot cope with anymore neglect and abuse from the human population and needs some time to repair?

I've not gone completely insane under the restrictions – I am going to drive my car again once I'm allowed. I'm still going to commute to work. But, I will review how often I use my car. Do I need to drive in to town because it's not fun to walk back up the hill? Do I really need to drive to the shop right now for milk, or could I wait until I'm out anyway? Do I actually *need* my beloved Land Rover, or could I get something smaller, with fewer emissions?

And I urge you all, while you have time to reflect, to review your own carbon footprint and consider what is necessary – and what is just a luxury which, perhaps, you could manage without in order to help our delicate planet recover from centuries of abuse.

Thank you for listening.

Task 4: Paper 2 Writing Practise

Now that you've completed the above Paper 2 Writing tasks, complete the below practise task.

You should spend 45 minutes on the writing task and then send me your work so that I can give you some feedback; either written as a word document or a photograph of what you have written is fine.

“These days there is no point in travelling to see the world: you can see it all on the internet.”

Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

Task 5: Paper 1 Revision

In order to be prepared for exams, it is important to ensure you regularly revise all elements of the GCSE English Language exam.

Complete the Paper 1 Past Paper that is in the Home Learning folder. The whole exam should take you 1 hour and 45 minutes (15 minutes reading the extract, 45 minutes on the reading questions and 45 minutes on the writing question).

Once you have completed this paper, email me your work so that I can mark it, give you a grade and some feedback.

Task 6: Paper 2 Revision

In order to be prepared for exams, it is important to ensure you regularly revise all elements of the GCSE English Language exam.

Complete the Paper 2 Past Paper that is in the Home Learning folder. The whole exam should take you 1 hour and 45 minutes (15 minutes reading the extracts, 45 minutes on the reading questions and 45 minutes on the writing question).

Once you have completed this paper, email me your work so that I can mark it, give you a grade and some feedback.