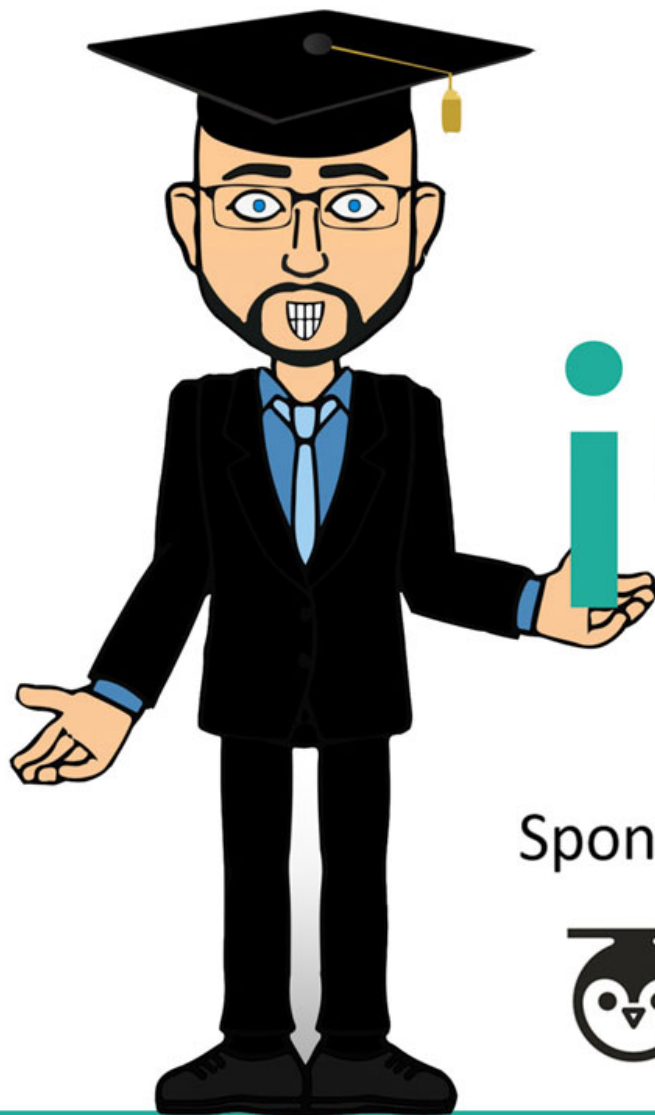


MR Bruff's Guide To iGCSE ENGLISH

Mr Bruff
ONLINE REVISION



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SAMPLE

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EXAMINATION PAPER 2 - THE EXTENDED PAPER (grades A*-E)

This paper has 3 questions; the time allowed is 2 hours. There are 2 texts to read (about 6-700 words long). It is expected that you spend about 15 mins just reading the texts.

Question number	Max marks awarded	Suggested time inc reading/planning
1	20 marks	45 minutes
2	10 marks	30 minutes
3	20 marks	45 minutes

Top Tips!

QUESTION 3 HAS CHANGED FOR 2015 – BE AWARE WHEN USING OTHER PAST PAPERS/SAMPLE ANSWERS!

- Take 3 or 4 highlighters into the exam so you can pick out key pieces of information easily.
- Read around any difficult words/phrases to help you make sense of any challenging vocabulary.
- Master the art of re-phrasing (putting quotes into your own words) before the exam. Start by trying out synonyms for different words e.g. a synonym for 'scared' is 'afraid'. Gradually try synonyms for more difficult vocabulary.
- Practise honing your inference and deduction skills.
- Remember this is primarily a READING paper.
- Take your time, think carefully and write in detail where necessary. It is possible to finish this paper quite quickly but you are unlikely to achieve top marks if you do so.

Question 1 – Directed writing

YOU SHOULD SPEND AROUND

45 MINUTES

ON THIS QUESTION

This writing task will be based on the first printed text, Passage A. It could ask you to write in any form e.g. a speech, a report, a letter, a diary entry etc.)

- Aim to write around 2 sides for this question.

- There are 15 marks for reading and 5 marks for writing so pay close attention to the material you select from the text. You must understand what is described/felt/imagined and then show this understanding in your writing.
- Write accurately. Your writing should be well structured and use accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar (see the **SPaG** section for help with these skills).
- Cover ALL aspects of the question.
- You will always be asked to write in the third person, using information and ideas from the text but completely using YOUR OWN WORDS.

KEY SKILL – USING SYNONYMS

(a synonym is a word with the same or similar meaning as another word, e.g. a synonym for ‘scared’ is ‘afraid’).

Planning to answer question 1 – where do I begin?

1. Read the question carefully, highlighting key words as you go. **Pay particular attention to the three bullet points**, all looking for different kinds of information which you will later need to use in your answer.
2. Have **3 different coloured highlighters** (or coloured pencils) at the ready. The reading and planning time is built into the 45 minutes you should spend on this question. Don’t rush through these planning stages, they are key to gaining the marks in your answer.
3. **For each bullet point you are looking for 5 pieces of information** (there will be far more than 5 to choose from that will be relevant!) The first bullet point should have information that is fairly easy to find... look for these 5 points using your first coloured highlighter (e.g. yellow).
4. Re-read the second bullet point, change colours and read the text again, picking out another 5 quotes (again there will be more than 5 possibilities).
5. Re-read the final bullet point. This one is harder as it tests your skills of inference and deduction. Use your final colour (e.g. pink) to highlight another 5 points.

6. **Double check you have a total of 15 points highlighted** which cover the whole text. It is essential that you have covered all 3 bullet points equally.

Only now are you ready to begin your answer to question 1!

Writing the answer to question 1:

If your planning has been completed accurately and thoroughly, actually writing your response will be fairly easy. The key now is to **USE YOUR OWN WORDS**. You mustn't quote from the text. Often you will be given a phrase or a sentence to start you off.

Reading marks:

There are 15 marks available for you using the information you have identified from the text, so your ability to use synonyms and re-word the information is key. For top marks your response must show that you have read the text accurately, developed your ideas and covered all three of the bullet points in detail.

Writing marks:

There are a further 5 marks available for the quality of your writing. You will be rewarded for writing accurately, expressing your ideas precisely, structuring your response appropriately and using the best possible vocabulary you can.

Structuring your answer

There are different possibilities here. Some schools may suggest bullet point lists followed by a paragraph but in order to really impress your examiner I recommend writing your response in full sentences and paragraphs.

Deal with each bullet point in turn, putting the 5 quotes from one colour into your own words and expanding on them as necessary. Don't be too creative; keep your answer focused on what you've learnt from the passage.

When you have a paragraph covering the first bullet point, move onto your next colour and then the last. Repeat the process. Always being sure to use your own words.

YOUR TURN!

- 1) **Read Passage A and question 1 carefully.**
- 2) **When you're ready, highlight the passage using 3 different colours.**
- 3) **Aim to find at least 5 points in response to EACH bullet point.**

Passage A *Phil Bruff recounts his experience of sky-diving for the first time.*

Nothing can match the adrenaline buzz that you feel the first time you leap out of a plane. Hurling two miles towards the ground is unbelievable. I haven't felt anything like it before or since. Nothing else exists, just you and the sky.

The build up is the most terrifying aspect: the waiting, the explanation of risk factors, the suit. All of these delays really serve to heighten the tension. Did I want my jump videoed? Was it wrong that my first thought was about how my family would have a record of my last moments if anything went wrong? I decided that yes, I would like a video; I also decided that I would give my mum a quick ring, just to check how she was...

I have always been attracted to extreme sports. I love heights and used to enjoy climbing as a child, but as I progressed to adult walls my shorter-than-average limbs struggled to reach the next hold and eventually I decided I just wasn't built to be a climber. Skiing is fun but it is very expensive and requires travel and correct conditions to get that buzz. Also, I have always been keen to push boundaries and pursue the next adventure so sky-diving seemed a logical next step. I think we should all push ourselves in life; it can be so rewarding. I also planned to make some money for a local charity while I was at it.

The walk to the plane was over too quickly. With great efficiency I was strapped in and sat between my instructor Neil's legs. I tried not to think about the awkwardness of the situation. My mind went back to when I was sat on my comfy sofa, reading articles about people who had done this and survived, I tried to recall the headlines but my mind went blank as the propellers whirred...

As the plane climbed I steeled myself. Statistically this was supposed to be safer than the drive up the motorway. My mind was in turmoil but that didn't matter as the big moment had arrived. I was to go first! There was nobody ahead of me to watch and take comfort from; I was to be the pathfinder for the anxious faces I knew were seated behind me. Those others who had also abandoned the comfy sofas we all inhabit too regularly to fling



themselves out of a plane! Those who were also raising money for a variety of good causes, I remembered the various names I'd seen emblazoned across their T shirts. It was time...

I scooted over to the edge and had a brief moment to marvel at what was before me. The clouds, fluffy as fleece but fragile as gossamer puffed around the plane. The ground below opened up, a yawning chasm into which I was about to fling myself. The countdown began... Three! Two! One! And out we went, tumbling, deafened by the wind.

The free fall was only a few seconds long but was completely exhilarating. The initial moments when my senses were bombarded almost to the point of numbness, were quickly exchanged for a mesmerising peace when the chute opened. The deafening roar of the wind became a brief scream, and then the wind merely whispered as we glided... I found a kind of inner-peace and relished the tranquillity of the flight I had left.

The landing was similar to one you might experience after a long zipwire at the end of a high-wire course. My heels slid across the grass as we came to a bumpy halt. Relief flooded over me as I brushed myself off and turned around to return Neil's high-five. My time sky-diving was certainly memorable; I now feel almost like part of an elite club of extreme sports enthusiasts. I have a funny feeling it won't be my last trip plummeting to Earth from a plane...

Question 1

After his experience sky-diving, a reporter for a publication called Extreme Sports Magazine interviewed Phil and asked him the following three questions:

- What made you choose sky-diving as an activity?
- What were your thoughts and feelings about the experience?
- What are your opinions on people engaging in extreme sports such as sky-diving?

Write the words of the interview, beginning with the first question.

Base your interview on passage A. Use your own words.

Here is how you might have highlighted the text. Bear in mind there are some different options though, and always more than 5 possibilities per bullet point.

Green = first bullet point, 'Why did you choose sky-diving as an activity?'

Yellow = second bullet point, 'What were your thoughts/feelings about the experience?'

Pink = third bullet point, 'What are your opinions on people engaging in extreme sports such as sky-diving?'

Passage A *Phil Bruff recounts his experience of sky-diving for the first time.*

Nothing can match the **adrenaline buzz** that you feel the first time you leap out of a plane. **Hurling two miles towards the ground is unbelievable.** **I haven't felt anything like it before or since.** Nothing else exists, just you and the sky.



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NEXT you must select which 15 points to use. You could make a quick list or could draw lines under those you've selected. Remember in your answer you must USE YOUR OWN WORDS!

For example... the planning for your first paragraph might look like this:

Why did you choose sky-diving as an activity?

- For the feel-good chemicals flooding my brain.
- Because I've always enjoyed other challenging sports such as skiing and climbing (no need to find other words for terms such as skiing and climbing!)
- Because I have fun when I am high above the ground.
- I'm keen to find out what my limits are and push them as much as I can.
- To get sponsorship and be able to donate to charities.

Once your planning is complete you should write your answer. As long as you remember to use your own words as much as possible this should be easy.

Read the following exemplar answer and compare it to your own...

EXEMPLAR ANSWER

What made you choose sky-diving as an activity?

Well, I have always enjoyed sports which push you mentally and physically. I used to be a keen skier and have tried climbing too. I was looking for a new challenge, one that would really test me and one that would send those feel-good chemicals flooding to my brain again - there's nothing like a natural high, brought on by my endorphins! I love the sensation of being up high and my aim was to combine all this with an opportunity to be able to donate to one of my local charities through sponsorship. So sky-diving seemed the perfect choice of activity for me.

What were your thoughts and feelings about the experience?

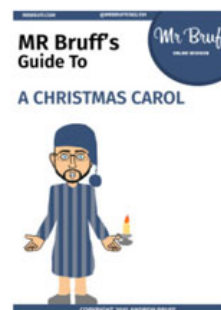
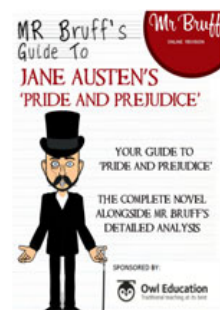
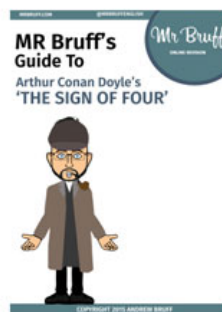
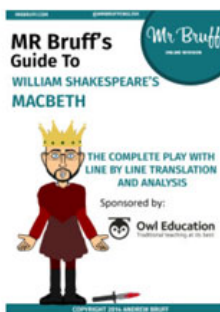
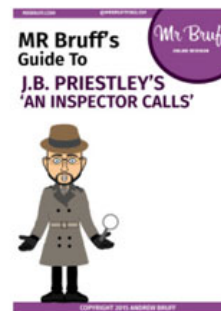
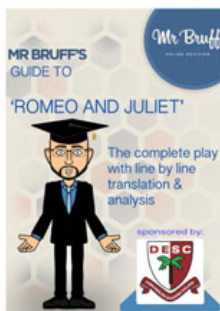
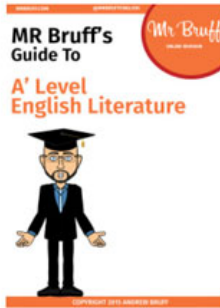
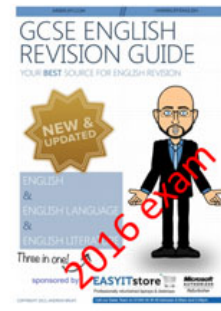
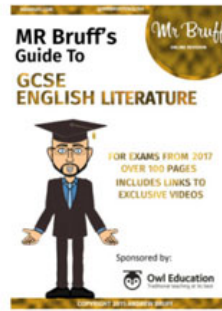
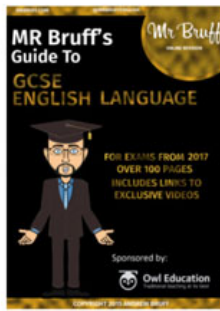
Surprisingly it was actually the build-up that was more frightening than the jump itself. All the preparations made me really nervous! I telephoned my mum, pretending it was just a courtesy call to check how she was but really it was to make sure I could tell her that I loved her before risking my life!

I felt really uncomfortable on the plane as I was sat between my instructor's legs. He was very business-like about it all though which helped. During the flight I tried to think about articles I'd read about sky-diving to try and maintain a positive frame of mind, but it was really tricky to keep focused. I had to be brave as I was the first one to go; I knew the other people jumping that day were probably just as nervous as me so I tried to be strong.

As we were about to jump I finally saw the view and was in awe. The clouds were so soft and fragile and the ground seemed to open up below me. The free fall was breath-taking and this was followed by a peaceful soar down to Earth once the parachute had opened. I was thankful to be in one piece as we landed but I would happily do it all over again!

What are your opinions on people engaging in extreme sports such as sky-diving?

I think people should test themselves to the limit every now and again as it can be so rewarding when you achieve like this. My experience was very positive. I felt very safe both due to the statistics and because of my excellent instructor. People are often keen to sponsor these kinds of activities so it can be a great way of providing your favourite charity with some much-needed funding. At the end you feel a sense of belonging through the experience you have shared with others who have dared to risk it all for the thrills and to do some good. Overall, I highly recommend it!



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