



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRACTICE PAPER – MARK SCHEME (NI / CCEA STYLE)

SECTION A: READING (40 MARKS)

Q1 – Identifying Information (2 marks)

Award **1 mark** for each correct point from Text A. Accept any two of the following:

- To build confidence
- To develop communication or employability skills
- To explore career paths
- To support young people unsure about their next steps

Max: 2 marks

Q2 – Using Evidence to Show Success (4 marks)

Award **2 marks** per valid point (1 mark for idea + 1 mark for supporting evidence). Possible answers include:

- Local employers have shown interest → offering work-experience placements
- The programme has already attracted participants
- Organisers expect over 100 young people to complete it by the end of the year

Max: 4 marks

Q3 – Writer’s Feelings Before Starting (4 marks)

Award **2 marks** per point (1 mark for idea + 1 mark for evidence). Possible answers:

- They were doubtful / unconvinced → “I wasn’t convinced”
- They had negative past experiences → “usually ended up feeling worse about myself”
- They lacked confidence → implied through tone

Max: 4 marks

Q4 – Change in Attitude (6 marks)

Mark for explanation + supporting evidence + clarity. Level-based marking:

Level	Description	Marks
3	Clear explanation of change with well-chosen evidence and some detail about how/why attitude shifts	5–6
2	Some explanation of change with at least one piece of evidence	3–4
1	Basic comment on change, limited evidence	1–2
0	No relevant response	0

Q5 – Comparison of Texts (12 marks)

Assess comparison, use of evidence, and comments on writers' methods.

Level	Description	Marks
4	Perceptive comparison; clear understanding of both texts; well-selected evidence; thoughtful comments on methods	10–12
3	Clear comparisons; appropriate evidence; some comments on methods	7–9
2	Some comparisons; some evidence; limited method comments	4–6
1	Simple statements; minimal evidence; little or no method discussion	1–3
0	No relevant response	0

Q6 – Evaluation of Language (12 marks)

Focus on how effectively Text B shows personal growth.

Level Description	Marks
4 Perceptive evaluation; detailed analysis of language; well-chosen evidence	10–12
3 Clear evaluation; relevant language analysis; appropriate evidence	7–9
2 Some evaluation; basic language comments; some evidence	4–6
1 Limited evaluation; simple comments; minimal evidence	1–3
0 No relevant response	0

SECTION B: WRITING (60 MARKS)

Assessed on **Content & Organisation (36 marks)** and **SPaG – Sentence Structure, Punctuation & Grammar (24 marks)**.

Content & Organisation (36 marks)

Level Description	Marks
4 Engaging, well-developed ideas; clear sense of purpose; effective structure; confident tone	28–36
3 Clear, relevant writing; some development; logical structure	19–27
2 Some relevance; uneven development; basic structure	10–18
1 Limited relevance; simple ideas; weak organisation	1–9
0 No meaningful response	0

SPaG (24 marks)

Level Description	Marks
4 Wide range of accurate punctuation; varied sentences; secure spelling	19–24

Level	Description	Marks
3	Mostly accurate; some variety; occasional errors	13–18
2	Frequent errors but meaning clear; limited variety	7–12
1	Many errors; meaning sometimes unclear	1–6
0	No meaningful writing	0