



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRACTICE PAPER (NI – CCEA STYLE)

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes **Total Marks:** 100 **Section A: Reading (40 marks)** **Section B: Writing (60 marks)**

SECTION A: READING

Read **Text A** and **Text B**, then answer the questions that follow.

Text A – Newspaper Article

A Fresh Start for Young People in Mid Ulster

Last month, a new initiative opened its doors to young people hoping to take their first steps into employment. The “Future Forward Programme,” based in Cookstown, aims to support those who feel unsure about their next move after leaving school. Over four weeks, participants take part in workshops designed to build confidence, develop communication skills and explore different career paths.

Programme coordinator Sarah Donnelly believes the scheme fills an important gap. “Many young people want to work, but they don’t always know where to begin,” she explains. “We help them recognise their strengths and show them that they have more potential than they realise.”

The programme has already attracted interest from local employers, several of whom have offered work-experience placements. Organisers hope that by the end of the year, more than 100 young people will have completed the course and moved on to further training or employment.

Text B – Personal Blog Post

Trying Something New

I’ll be honest — when my friend told me about a course that might help me get a job, I wasn’t convinced. I’d tried things like that before and usually ended up feeling worse about myself. But this time was different.

From the moment I walked in, the staff made me feel welcome. There was no pressure to speak in front of the group, and nobody made me feel silly for not knowing what I wanted to do. By the second week, I’d already learned how to write a proper CV and even practised interview questions with one of the tutors.

The biggest change, though, was how I felt about myself. I stopped thinking I wasn’t good enough and started believing I could actually achieve something. When the programme ended, I applied for a

part-time job — and I got it. I'm still nervous about the future, but now I know I'm capable of more than I thought.

Questions – Section A

1. From Text A, identify two aims of the Future Forward Programme.

(2 marks)

2. How does the writer of Text A show that the programme has been successful so far? Give two pieces of evidence.

(4 marks)

3. In Text B, what were the writer's feelings before starting the course? Use two details from the text.

(4 marks)

4. Explain how the writer's attitude changes throughout Text B.

(6 marks)

5. Compare how Text A and Text B present the benefits of programmes like these.

You should:

- identify similarities and/or differences
- use evidence from both texts
- comment on the writers' methods *(12 marks)*

6. Evaluate how effectively Text B uses language to show the writer's personal growth.

(12 marks)

SECTION B: WRITING

Choose **ONE** task.

Task 1: Personal Writing

Write about a time when you tried something new and how it affected you. Your response may be personal or based on an imagined experience. (60 marks)

Task 2: Functional/Transactional Writing

Your local council is planning to reduce funding for youth services. Write a letter persuading them to reconsider their decision. You should:

- explain why youth services matter
- give clear, convincing arguments
- use a persuasive tone *(60 marks)*

