

Component 1, Section A: 20th-century literature reading

Component 1, Section A has five questions about one extract from a twentieth-century novel. There are 40 marks available.

What exactly must I do?

You have about an hour to complete this section. You must try to finish this section in about 60 minutes, because you need the remaining time (45 minutes) to answer Section B.

It is a good idea to read the text through at the start of the exam. Spend around 10 minutes reading the text carefully, then about 50 minutes answering the questions that follow it.

The questions and marks may vary slightly, but will generally be as follows:

Q A1	5 marks	This question will ask you to find five details in the first part of the text and list them. Find and list points in the order they appear. You do not have to use your own words and can use bullet points.
Q A2	5 marks	This will be a language question. You will be asked how the writer uses language for a particular purpose, such as to establish character, in a section of the text.
Q A3	10 marks	This question will either be another language question, or a question asking you what impression you receive of a particular character, place or event in the extract.
Q A4	10 marks	Depending on what you were asked in question 3, number 4 will either ask you a language question or what impression you receive of a character, place or event in the extract. It may also ask you to focus how a writer creates tension or another effect.
Q A5	10 marks	This question will either ask you to evaluate the way someone or something is presented in the text or whether you agree with a statement about the text.

In all questions apart from Question 1, you will be expected to support your points with evidence from the text and explain your ideas.

There are no marks for spelling, sentence construction or punctuation in this section, but you should still express yourself clearly.