Explore LEARNING

Writing Test Book

Levels 4–6

Name:

Contents Page

You will complete interim tests throughout this course. Interim tests will be completed at home and will then be marked and reviewed with your tutor the following week.

The interim tests are designed to:

- Check for learning of concepts covered.
- Highlight areas of strength and areas for additional practice.
- Practise exam techniques learnt in lessons under exam conditions.

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Instructions for writing papers

Lesson Papers

This book includes five writing tasks that are labelled as 'lesson papers'. In some course planners, 'lesson papers' have been scheduled in to the year long 11+ / Entrance Exam course planner and should be completed only when they appear in the course planner.

If 'lesson papers' do not appear in your course planner, your tutor may set these writing tasks as homework or additional writing practice in the run up to exams.

Interim Tests

Interim papers have been scheduled in to the year long 11+ / Entrance Exam course planner and should be completed only when they appear in the course planner.

ALL TESTS WILL BE COMPLETED AT HOME. Please make sure you bring your book to your lesson the week after a test has been completed for marking and review.

Your tutor will inform you when a test should be completed.

Which tests should I complete?

Your tutor will direct you to **complete the relevant sections** depending on the course planner you are following and the exam you are preparing for.

Marking and Feedback

Once you have completed an 'interim test' you will mark it alongside your tutor.

Reflecting helps you to develop your skills and review their effectiveness. To be self-aware is to be able to realistically assess your strengths, areas for development and set goals, while maintaining a positive mindset. You will get some time after each test for self-reflection.

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LESSON PAPER 1

- You have **10 minutes** to plan your piece of writing.
- You will have 30 minutes to write.
- The composition will be marked out of 20.

There it was again, the same flash of light. Only this time, it was near the bus stop. The first time Lucia saw the flash was on her way to school, when it came from a passing car. Next, the bright flash caught her eye in the water fountain near her classroom. Each time a sudden flicker of bright, blue light would catch her eye. Lucia didn't think anything of these flashes until this time, something happened she couldn't ignore. Something happened that she couldn't believe…

Continue the story.

Mark Scheme (20 marks)

- 2 marks for continuing to write in past tense.
- 2 marks for continuing to write in third person.
- 5 marks for explaining events in good detail.
- 2 marks for expanding on the event that happened that could not be ignored.
- 1 mark for making reference to the order of events.
- 2 marks for organising writing into logical paragraphs.
- 2 marks for good use of connectives and conjunctions.
- 2 marks for correct grammar and punctuation.
- 2 marks for good spelling.

Planning:

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LESSON PAPER 2

- You have **10 minutes** to plan your piece of writing.
- You will have 30 minutes to write.
- The composition will be marked out of 20.

Imagine you are the first human to make contact with an alien species. What would it be like?

Write an account to describe this event. Consider how you would try to communicate with the aliens and how they would respond to you. Describe what the alien species is like and how they act towards you.

Mark Scheme (20 marks)

- 2 marks for writing in first person.
- 5 marks for a vivid description of the alien species and how they act.
- 2 marks for including personal feelings and emotions about the event.
- 2 marks for describing communication / attempted communication with the alien species.
- 1 mark for making reference to the order of events.
- 2 marks for organising writing into logical paragraphs.
- 2 marks for good use of conjunctions and connectives.
- 2 marks for correct grammar and punctuation.
- 2 marks for good spelling.

Planning:

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LESSON PAPER 3

- You have **10 minutes** to plan your piece of writing.
- You will have 30 minutes to write.
- The composition will be marked out of 20.

You have been asked to give a speech in assembly about your favourite animal. You should describe the animal and explain why you like it.

Things to include:
- Information about the animal.
- A description of the animal.
- An explanation to your audience with some of the reasons why most people like animals.

Mark Scheme (20 marks)
- 2 marks for including facts about the animal.
- 2 marks for a vivid description of the animal.
- 2 marks for including personal feelings about the animal.
- 2 marks for writing in a style that will engage your audience.
- 3 marks for including features of a speech (rhetorical questions, emotive language, statistics, facts and opinions, repetition)
- 1 mark for making reference to the order of events.
- 2 marks for organising writing into logical paragraphs.
- 2 marks for good use of conjunctions and connectives.
- 2 marks for correct grammar and punctuation.
- 2 marks for good spelling.

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LESSON PAPER 4

- You have **10 minutes** to plan your piece of writing.
- You will have 30 minutes to write.
- The composition will be marked out of 20.

Write a story with **'The Abandoned House'** as your title.
Consider your thoughts and feelings as well as what happened.

Write no more than 300 words.

Mark Scheme (20 marks)

- 2 marks for writing in first person.
- 5 marks for explaining events in good detail.
- 2 marks for including personal feelings and emotions about the event(s).
- 2 marks for using the theme of 'abandoned' throughout the story.
- 1 mark for making reference to order of events.
- 2 marks for organising writing into logical paragraphs.
- 2 marks for good use of conjunctions and connectives.
- 2 marks for correct grammar and punctuation.
- 2 marks for good spelling.

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LESSON PAPER 5

- You have **10 minutes** to plan your piece of writing.
- You will have 30 minutes to write.
- The composition will be marked out of 20.

Write a newspaper account of a dramatic escape.

You may want to think about some of the following before you start:
- Who had to escape and why?
- Who helped them escape?
- What was the outcome?

Mark Scheme (20 marks)
- 1 mark for including a newspaper headline.
- 1 mark for including an introductory paragraph.
- 2 marks for explaining events in good detail.
- 2 marks for presenting the main events in chronological order.
- 2 marks for using direct and reported speech.
- 2 marks for writing in the third person and in the past tense.
- 1 mark for using formal language.
- 1 mark for including a conclusion paragraph.
- 2 marks for organising writing into logical paragraphs.
- 2 marks for good use of conjunctions and connectives.
- 2 marks for correct grammar and punctuation.
- 2 marks for good spelling.

Planning:

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Mock Paper A

Read the instructions carefully.

1. Do not begin until you are instructed to do so.
2. You have 10 minutes to plan your piece of writing.
3. You will have 30 minutes to write.
4. Make sure you can see a clock.
5. Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
6. Allocate enough time to check your writing at the end.

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It was at precisely 11:42am that they called me into the headmaster's office. They said they were from the government and that they needed my help. What on earth could they need my help for? Well, it's fair to say I discovered an awful lot about myself that day.

Continue the story.

Planning:

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SELF REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on your review test experience. Although they may sometimes feel stressful, exams can also be valuable learning opportunities.

Your preparation

How confident did you feel going into the exam?

Did you prepare / revise for the test in any way?

Your performance

Did you understand and follow the instructions given for the exam? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did you have enough time to complete your written task? ☐ yes ☐ no

What emotions did you feel during the exam?

What might you do differently next time?

In preparation for your next exam, write down one thing you will keep doing and one thing you will change for next time.

Keep	Change

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Mock Paper B

Read the instructions carefully.

1. Do not begin until you are instructed to do so.

2. You have 10 minutes to plan your piece of writing.

3. You will have 30 minutes to write.

4. Make sure you can see a clock.

5. Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.

6. Allocate enough time to check your writing at the end.

You see the following headline in your local newspaper:

Play Park Poached for Car Park Development

Popular local park due to be destroyed to create more town centre parking.

Write a letter to your local council to persuade them not to destroy the park.

Planning:

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SELF REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on your review test experience. Although they may sometimes feel stressful, exams can also be valuable learning opportunities.

Your preparation

How confident did you feel going into the exam?

Did you prepare / revise for the test in any way?

Your performance

Did you understand and follow the instructions given for the exam? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did you have enough time to complete your written task? ☐ yes ☐ no

What emotions did you feel during the exam?

What might you do differently next time?

In preparation for your next exam, write down one thing you will keep doing and one thing you will change for next time.

Keep	Change

Mock Paper C

Read the instructions carefully.

1. Do not begin until you are instructed to do so.
2. You have 10 minutes to plan your piece of writing.
3. You will have 30 minutes to write.
4. Make sure you can see a clock.
5. Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
6. Allocate enough time to check your writing at the end.

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Imagine that you won a competition where your prize is a trip in a hot air balloon.

Write a story of your day for your school's website.

Planning:

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SELF REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on your review test experience. Although they may sometimes feel stressful, exams can also be valuable learning opportunities.

Your preparation

How confident did you feel going into the exam?

Did you prepare / revise for the test in any way?

Your performance

Did you understand and follow the instructions given for the exam? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did you have enough time to complete your written task? ☐ yes ☐ no

What emotions did you feel during the exam?

What might you do differently next time?

In preparation for your next exam, write down one thing you will keep doing and one thing you will change for next time.

Keep	Change

 © Explore Learning Writing Test Book

Mock Paper D

Read the instructions carefully.

1. Do not begin until you are instructed to do so.
2. You have 10 minutes to plan your piece of writing.
3. You will have 30 minutes to write.
4. Make sure you can see a clock.
5. Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
6. Allocate enough time to check your writing at the end.

Write a leaflet to advertise your home town.

Planning:

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SELF REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on your review test experience. Although they may sometimes feel stressful, exams can also be valuable learning opportunities.

Your preparation

How confident did you feel going into the exam?

Did you prepare / revise for the test in any way?

Your performance

Did you understand and follow the instructions given for the exam? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did you have enough time to complete your written task? ☐ yes ☐ no

What emotions did you feel during the exam?

What might you do differently next time?

In preparation for your next exam, write down one thing you will keep doing and one thing you will change for next time.

Keep	Change

Mock Paper E

Read the instructions carefully.

1. Do not begin until you are instructed to do so.
2. You have 10 minutes to plan your piece of writing.
3. You will have 30 minutes to write.
4. Make sure you can see a clock.
5. Work as quickly and as carefully as you can.
6. Allocate enough time to check your writing at the end.

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Describe a person who is important to you.

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SELF REFLECTION

Take some time to reflect on your review test experience. Although they may sometimes feel stressful, exams can also be valuable learning opportunities.

Your preparation

How confident did you feel going into the exam?

Did you prepare / revise for the test in any way?

Your performance

Did you understand and follow the instructions given for the exam? ☐ yes ☐ no

Did you have enough time to complete your written task? ☐ yes ☐ no

What emotions did you feel during the exam?

What might you do differently next time?

In preparation for your next exam, write down one thing you will keep doing and one thing you will change for next time.

Keep	Change

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SPELLING LOG

Record any new spellings that you wish to practise in the table below.

Word	Sentence (word in context)

Word	Sentence (word in context)

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