

**CCEA GCSE**  
**English Language**  
**Unit 1 Exam**  
**Sample Paper**

**Total marks: 150**

**Time: 1 hour 45 minutes**

**Task 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience (87)**

**Task 2: Reading Non-Fiction Analysis (21)**

**Task 3: Reading Non-Fiction Summarising (12)**

**Task 4: Reading Non-Fiction Media Text: Language (20)**

**Task 5: Reading Non-Fiction Media Text: Presentational  
Features (10)**

## Section A: Writing for Purpose and Audience

**Task 1: Spend 55 minutes on your response. Mark allocation: 87 marks**

Up to **57 marks** are available for an **organised and engaging** piece of writing that matches **form and purpose with audience**.

Up to **30 marks** are available for the use of a **range of sentence structures** and **accuracy in spelling, punctuation and grammar**.

Write **an article for your school magazine** giving your views on this topic:

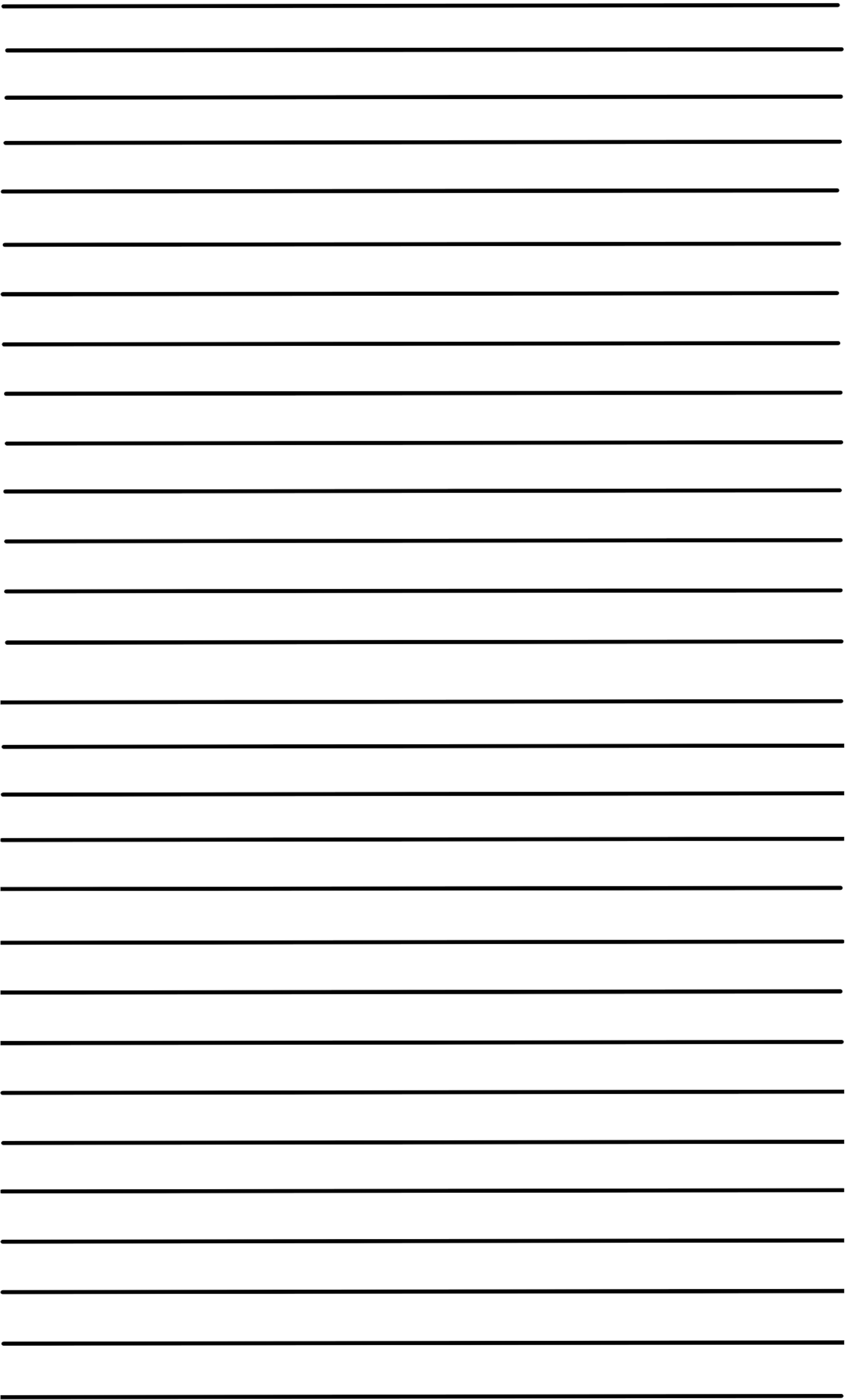
‘All young people should volunteer in their community once per week.’

You are advised to spend:

- **15 minutes** thinking and planning your response
- **30 minutes** writing your response
- **10 minutes** checking your response

**Planning space:**





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## Section B: Reading Non-fiction and Media Texts

Four tasks: 50 minutes. Mark allocation: 63 marks

### Reading Non-fiction

**Tasks 2 and 3** are based on extracts from an autobiography about being a commuter and driving on the roads.

**Task 2:** Spend **15 minutes** on this task. Total **21 marks**

**Read the text below where the writer describes his experiences of driving in bad traffic and experiencing road rage.**

**Explain how the writer has presented this in a way that engages his readers' interest. Support your comments with evidence.**

Every evening, as I crawl into my metallic prison after work, I can feel the city's pulse racing. Rush hour is a battle, and I am a soldier in a never-ending war on wheels.

The symphony of car horns, like a chorus of disgruntled geese, greets me. The impatient drumbeat of my heart syncs with the rhythmic wailing of sirens. My tiny sedan becomes my armour as I venture into the daily traffic fray.

As I navigate the streets, I can't help but notice the bizarre behaviour of my fellow commuters. There are the lane hoppers, those daring souls who leap between lanes like acrobats, their indicators an afterthought. There are also the selfish beasts cruising in the fast lane, completely oblivious to the trail of chaos they leave behind.

Road rage becomes my passenger, an unwelcome companion on my daily journey. It is the little things that push me over the edge: the guy in front who slams on his brakes because he thinks he sees a squirrel, the motorcyclist who zips past me like a rogue missile, or the oblivious pedestrian who strolls across the road as if life were a leisurely stroll in the park.

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**Task 3:** Spend **10 minutes** on this task. Total **12 marks**

In this part of the text, the writer describes the stress of his commute and the surprising things that happen to improve his road rage.

**Read the text below. In your own words, write down two reasons why the writer is able to calm down and unwind: one reason from each paragraph.**

**For each reason present two pieces of supporting evidence.**

My temper, usually as steady as a metronome, started to fluctuate. My language behind the wheel became colourful, if not poetic, as I cursed under my breath at the audacity of my fellow travellers. I fantasised about having a dashboard button that could fire darts to deflate the tires of those who tested my patience. But then, there was a moment of redemption. Out of nowhere, a stranger let me merge with a friendly wave, meaning I could side step and major bottle neck of traffic waiting to turn left. This act of kindness cut my commute time back down. Perhaps I would finally get home from work this side of Christmas! Relief flowed through me like a rush of fresh air.

As I exhaled, I took my eyes up away from the road and towards the horizon. An unexpected serenity washed over me as I caught a glimpse of the beginning of a golden sunset casting its glow over the tangled concrete veins of the city. A calm moment broke through. Nature reminded me that road rage does not get me there any faster. Every now and then, the world rights itself and reminds us all to calm down.

(a) Reason from paragraph one:

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[4]



(b) Two pieces of supporting evidence from paragraph one:

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[2]

(c) Reason from paragraph two:

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[4]

(d) Two pieces of supporting evidence from paragraph two:

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[2]



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# THE NIGHTMARE

JACKSON SMYTH



Task 5: Spend 8 minutes on this task. Total 10 marks



Study the front cover of the novel “The Nightmare”.

Select two examples of presentational features used in this book cover to make it appealing to the reader. Explain the intended effect of these two presentational features.

(a) First example of a presentational feature:

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[1]

(b) Intended effect on the reader:

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[4]

(c) Second example of a presentational feature:

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(d) Intended effect on the reader:

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[4]