



# GCSE Practice Paper

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1: Creative reading and writing

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### Insert

Source A: 20th Century prose-fiction

'The Rocking-Horse Winner' by D.H. Lawrence

An extract from a short story, published in 1926.

Please turn the page over to see the source

## Source A

This extract is taken from the opening of the story. It is a story about a middle-class family who are struggling for money. Hester is the name of the mother.

- 1 There was a woman who was beautiful, who started with all the advantages, yet she had no luck. She married for love, and the love turned to dust. She had bonny children, yet she felt they had been thrust upon her, and she could not love them. They looked at her coldly, as if they
- 5 were finding fault with her. And hurriedly she felt she must cover up some fault in herself. Yet what it was that she must cover up she never knew. Nevertheless, when her children were present, she always felt the centre of her heart go hard. This troubled her, and in her manner she was all the more gentle and anxious for her children, as if she loved them very much.
- 10 Only she herself knew that at the centre of her heart was a hard little place that could not feel love, no, not for anybody. Everybody else said of her: "She is such a good mother. She adores her children." Only she herself, and her children themselves, knew it was not so. They read it in each other's eyes.
- 15 There were a boy and two little girls. They lived in a pleasant house, with a garden, and they had discreet servants, and felt themselves superior to anyone in the neighbourhood. Although they lived in style, they felt always an anxiety in the house. There was never enough money. The mother had a small income, and the father
- 20 had a small income, but not nearly enough for the social position which they had to keep up. The father went into town to some office. But though he had good prospects, these prospects never materialised. There was always the grinding sense of the shortage of money, though the style was always kept up.
- 25 At last the mother said: "I will see if I can't make something." But she did not know where to begin. She racked her brains, and tried this thing and the other, but could not find anything successful. The failure made deep lines come into her face. Her children were growing up, they would have to go to school. There must be more money, there must be more money.
- 30 The father, who was always very handsome and expensive in his tastes, seemed as if he never would be able to do anything worth doing. And the mother, who had a great belief in herself, did not succeed any better, and her tastes were just as expensive.
- 35 And so the house came to be haunted by the unspoken phrase: There must be more money! There must be more money! The children could hear it all the time though nobody said it aloud. They heard it at Christmas, when the expensive and splendid toys filled the nursery. Behind the shining modern rocking-horse, behind the smart doll's house, a voice would start whispering: "There must be more money! There must be more money!"

40 And the children would stop playing, to listen for a moment. They would look into each other's eyes, to see if they had all heard. And each one saw in the eyes of the other two that they too had heard. "There must be more money! There must be more money!"

45 It came whispering from the springs of the still-swaying rocking-horse, and even the horse, bending his wooden, champing head, heard it. The big doll, sitting so pink and smirking in her new pram, could hear it quite plainly, and seemed to be smirking all the more self-consciously because of it. The foolish puppy, too, that took the place of the teddy-bear, he was looking so extraordinarily foolish for no other reason but that he heard the secret  
50 whisper all over the house: "There must be more money!"

Yet nobody ever said it aloud. The whisper was everywhere, and therefore no one spoke it. Just as no one ever says: "We are breathing!" in spite of the fact that breath is coming and going all the time.

"Mother," said the boy Paul one day, "why don't we keep a car of our own?  
55 Why do we always use uncle's, or else a taxi?"

"Because we're the poor members of the family," said the mother.

"But why are we, mother?"

"Well - I suppose," she said slowly and bitterly, "it's because your father has  
59 no luck."



Name:

Date:

Score:

# GCSE English Language

## Paper 1: Creative reading and writing

### Section A: Reading

1

Read again the first part of the source, from lines 15 to 24.

List **four** things we learn about Hester's family.

[4 marks]

1.
2.
3.
4.

2

Look in detail at this extract from lines 34 to 43.

And so the house came to be haunted by the unspoken phrase: There must be more money! There must be more money! The children could hear it all the time though nobody said it aloud. They heard it at Christmas, when the expensive and splendid toys filled the nurser . Behind the shining modern rocking-horse, behind the smart doll's house, a voice would start whispering: "There must be more money! There must be more money!" And the children would stop playing, to listen for a moment. They would look into each other's eyes, to see if they had all heard. And each one saw in the eyes of the other two that they too had heard. "There must be more money! There must be more money!"

How does the writer use language to describe the family's money worries?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms

[8 marks]

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Turn over for the next question

[illegible]





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## Section B: Writing

Write in full sentences.  
Remember to plan your answer.  
Leave enough time to check your work at the end.

**5**

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

**Either**

Write a description of a house, as suggested by this picture:



**or**

Write a story about a time that you felt worried.

(24 marks for content and organisation  
16 marks for technical accuracy)  
**[40 marks]**

[illegible]











[illegible]

**END OF QUESTIONS**