



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary  
Examination  
Specimen Written Paper

# Creative Writing

# CREW1

## Unit 1 Writing on Demand

### Date Line

For this paper you must have:

- a 16-page answer book.

### Time allowed

- 2 hours

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is CREW1.
- Answer **two** questions.
- Do all rough work in your answer book. Cross through any work that you do not want to be marked.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 60.
- There are 30 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Please read this advice carefully before you turn to the material.

### **Instructions**

Answer **two** questions.

### **Planning**

You are advised to spend **one hour** on each of the two questions you choose. It is recommended that, for **each** question, you spend around **15 minutes** reading, thinking and planning.

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Answer **two** questions.

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**Question 1**

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A national literary magazine has a short article each month by a different writer entitled 'How and why I write'. The magazine is keen to receive articles from writers who are at the start of their careers, as well as from published authors.

You are invited to contribute a 300 word article which will be based on your experiences as a writer so far.

Write your article.

*(30 marks)*

**Question 2**

0	2
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As part of a local initiative to promote the creative arts, you are asked to write a pitch for a new project called Poetry on the Buses, where short and accessible poems are displayed for bus passengers to read.

You have already selected the first three poems that you would like to use. These are printed below.

Write your pitch. Say why you think the initiative is a good idea, and why you think these poems are a suitable selection. You should direct your pitch to the Senior Director of Libraries who is coordinating the initiative.

*(30 marks)*

**Turn Over for Poems for Question 2**

**Poems for Question 2****Epigram Engraved on the Collar of a Dog Which I Gave to His Royal Highness**

I am his Highness' dog at Kew;  
Pray tell me, sir, whose dog are you?

Alexander Pope (1688 – 1744)

**Not Waving but Drowning**

Poem removed due to copyright restrictions.

Request a printed copy of the complete specimen paper at [aqa.org.uk/creativewriting](http://aqa.org.uk/creativewriting)

Stevie Smith (1902 – 1971)

**All-Purpose Poem for State Occasions**

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Wendy Cope (1945 – )

**Question 3**

0	3
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A local paper has asked you to be a guest reviewer for its regular feature on restaurants in your area.

While at the restaurant you make the following notes, which you must now write up into a 300 word review.

(30 marks)

**Notes for Question 3****Notes Taken from P#zazz Pizza: Monday March 27<sup>th</sup>**

27.3.12. Go with B to restaurant.

Arrive 8.05. Booked online for 7.45 but they kept a table

8.15 Wait-staff friendly and cheerful on arrival. Menus prompt. Don't seem to know we are reviewers. Set menu of 2 courses looks good value at £10 with choice of 'beginnings', and pizzas.

The décor is colourful with lots of reds and yellows but a bit in your face.

Tables quite close together. Pepper and salt are in fun containers. Oil free on table.

Restaurant quite full with a pleasant buzz of conversation. One man though talking very loudly on mobile phone, which they don't seem to have a rule about.

8.20 Aren't keen to serve us tap water – get it at 8.25.

We both opt for set menu, which includes range of vegetarian options for me.

I choose a mixed salad with Italian dressing, B has prawns in garlic. Me vegetarian pizza, B spicy beef pizza.

Bread put on table plus butter.

8.30 Salad arrives and is very cold, so must be straight out of chiller. But tangy dressing and good mix of ingredients. B likes the prawns which are juicy and not swimming in oil. Service cheerful and polished.

9.00 Still waiting for pizzas but place by now is very busy.

9.10 Pizzas arrive and look good. Just right size for healthy appetite but not too huge. B likes his immediately, I'm not quite so sure. Vegetables seem to have made it all a bit soggy. B says the beef is pleasantly spiced, likes the really crisp crust and would come again on strength of this. Again I'm a bit less happy. It's ok but not great.

9.40 Plates cleared but getting bit late for pudding, plus pudding not included in the deal, so ask for bill.

10.00 Still haven't got bill so ask again and it comes at once. Price for 2 is £25 which includes £2.50 for bread and £2.50 tip.

## Question 4

0	4
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As part of a literacy initiative to encourage interest in famous writers, your local library intends to display some information cards, which are meant to be lively and interesting accounts of the lives of famous authors.

The following is an edited version of an encyclopedia entry for the medieval poet Geoffrey Chaucer, most famous for writing *The Canterbury Tales*.

Using this as your source, write a 300 word synopsis, introducing readers to the life of Chaucer. The text will be displayed on an information card in the library.

(30 marks)

### Source Text for Question 4

Some details about Chaucer's origins are better known than others. He was probably born in London around 1343, but there is no verifiable precise date or place of birth. His name derives from the French shoemaker (Chausseur) which suggests his ancestors were merchants/tradesmen. Several previous generations can be traced to Ipswich in Suffolk. One story suggests that Chaucer's father was 'kidnapped' when young by an aunt in an attempt to get him to marry her daughter and so keep property in the family. His father John Chaucer was a wine seller and quite wealthy. So Geoffrey was born into some wealth, but with no aristocratic title; despite apparently being a brilliant scholar his progress was therefore limited by his social position.

Although his early origins are not much documented, it is possible to trace elements of Chaucer's working life because he was a civil servant. An early job working as a page in a noble family brought him close to the royal court, where he remained for the rest of his life. At various times in his life he was a diplomat and a courtier and at one point worked for the King collecting and cataloguing scrap metal.

He left his job in service in 1359 to join the army and fight the French in the Hundred Years' War (1337–1453). He was captured near Rheims, and ransomed the following year for sixteen pounds. He returned to work at the royal court where he became increasingly appreciated for his poetry. It is also thought that he travelled quite widely through Europe on official business. In 1367, he married a woman whose rank added to his social standing: Philippa de Roet, the sister to Catherine of Swynford, the third wife of John of Gaunt. John of Gaunt, the Duke of Lancaster, was later to take responsibility for ruling England when his father, Edward III, became too senile to rule, before a successor was crowned.

Chaucer probably studied law in the Inner Temple (an Inn of Court) at this time. He became a member of the royal court of Edward III as *avarlet de chambre*, yeoman, or esquire on 20 June 1367, a position which could entail a wide variety of tasks. His wife also received a pension for court employment. He travelled abroad many times, at least some of them in his role as a valet.

Chaucer travelled to Picardy as part of a military expedition, and visited Genoa and Florence in 1373. Some scholars suggest that, on this Italian trip, he came into contact with the famous Italian poets Petrarch or Boccaccio whose forms and stories he later used. Given his European models, it was unclear why Chaucer decided to write poetry in his mother-tongue English rather than in French. English poetry, at the time, tended to be quite different from what Chaucer would have heard in a London court that aspired to the language and customs of France. What little poetry there was in English tended to be in a different dialect from his own, and there is no real evidence that Chaucer knew such poetry or admired it.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

In 1374 Edward III granted Chaucer 'a gallon of wine daily for the rest of his life' for some unspecified task, which some like to think was to do with his writing. It is not known which, if any, of Chaucer's works prompted the reward, but the suggestion of him as poet to a king makes him similar in a way to the poet laureate role today. Chaucer continued to collect the wine until Richard II came to power, after which it was converted to a sum of money.

Chaucer obtained the very important job of Comptroller of the Customs for the port of London, which he began on 8 June 1374. He continued in this role for twelve years, a long time in such a post at that time. Little is known about his life for the next ten years, but it is believed that he wrote (or began) most of his famous works during this period.

We know that at several times in his life Chaucer was short of money and was sued for debts. Documents also suggest that in one unfortunate week in September, 1390, he was robbed at least twice, possibly three times. We know also of a report of a legal record, now lost, that Chaucer was fined two shillings for beating a Franciscan friar in London's Fleet Street. Some speculate on whether there is any connection between that event and Chaucer's negative depiction of friars in the *Canterbury Tales*.

While still working as comptroller, Chaucer probably moved to Kent, being appointed as one of the commissioners of peace for Kent, at a time when French invasion was a possibility. He is thought to have started work on *The Canterbury Tales* (Canterbury is in Kent) in the early 1380s. He also became a Member of Parliament for Kent in 1386.

In 1389, Chaucer was appointed the clerk of the King's works, organising some of the King's building projects. The job paid well: two shillings a day, more than three times his salary as a comptroller. Chaucer was also appointed Keeper of the Lodge at the King's park in Feckenham, which was a largely honorary appointment. In 1390 he began as Deputy Forester in the royal forest of North Petherton, Somerset. He was granted an annual pension of twenty pounds by Richard II in 1394. It is believed that Chaucer stopped work on the *Canterbury Tales* sometime towards the end of this decade.

Chaucer is believed to have died of unknown causes in October 1400, but there is no firm evidence for this date. Chaucer was buried in Westminster Abbey in London, as was his right because he was a tenant of the Abbey's close. In 1556, his remains were transferred to a more decorative tomb, making Chaucer the first writer to be buried in the area now known as Poets' Corner.

## END OF QUESTIONS

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 2:

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