

## GCSE English Language (Wales) Writing CPD

### Aims of the session:

- To share findings from Summer 2017
- To discuss features of successful and less successful writing

### Content:

- Unit 2 sample responses and guidance
- Unit 3 sample responses and guidance

## Unit 2 (Description, Narration, Exposition) Sample responses and guidance

### Approach:

- Candidates should choose their question carefully – think about potential content and skills needed
- Spend a few minutes planning answer - content and direction

### Exam question

- a) **Write an account of a time when you enjoyed or hated taking part in an outdoor activity.** [35]

### Sample answer 1

"What a glorious sunny day it is to go surfing in Australia. "Birds bobbing on top of the water up and down they go as people rush frantically to grab ice cream and chips. The refreshing sea breeze is cooling my red, burned face. A coconuty smell of suncream is sweet as it travels along the beach.

How lushous the sea is, tempting to only go for a dip after an hour of cooking under the overning sun. Whaching chatening girls float on their inflated lilos.

Waves tormenting me as they sweep back into the big blue.

Decided to go in I reached for my board and jumped in. At first it seemed ok as the ocean was warm and friendly. Suddenly a huge wave hits me of the board leaving me to be stabbed by what felt like a thousand tiny knives stabbing me visiously and tasting of salt.

It was then that something toches me I turn violently to see what was but there was nothing but a large shadow swimming away in the distance.

I scurry back onto the board stiff to frightened of what's learking below. I then realise that I am indeed alone that the chataring girls are nowhere to be seen there is no queue waiting for ice-cream or chips there is no one but me.

The ocean began to talk warning me to get out but I couldn't. not able to move or padle away I simply had to wait.

A wave finally appeared and sweaped me back to the shore. "what a glorious suny day it is to go surfing in Australia."

Awarded 7+4

### Sample answer 2

The day my friends were not with me was the day the pathetic P.E. teachers decided to organise a cross country run out in the fields. Out of all days they had to choose this day didn't they? Not only was I alone but it was also spitting down with rain and guess what? I hadn't even brought my kit in because I had forgotten it of course. There I was unprepared and really not bothered to run. As if one lap wasn't enough the teachers decided to extend it to two laps due to "lack of kit". Anyway, one teacher blew a whistle which meant to start. All the other pupils blew ahead racing in front of me while I decided to take my time walking. I was shivering in the horrible, cold-gloomy wheather. All of a sudden I realised that while I was only finished one lap, most of the other girls were at the end of their second lap. The teachers were not very pleased with me so said to complete an extra lap if I wasn't done in 9 minutes. That's it I had to use all the energy and stamina I had to complete the 2 laps because no way was I going to run 3 laps.

I was half way through my second lap and had felt the worst stitches ever but I couldn't give up although I was in pain I got up and started sprinting as if I was running away from wild dogs. I could finally see the finish line in the distance and the class screaming "30 seconds left" repeatedly so I ran faster than ever and I was finally done.

This run felt like like it was going on forever so finishing was a huge relief. And that was it, now for sure I was going to do a long run again ever.

Awarded 12+8

### Sample answer 3

The valley stretched almost unreachably below as distant mountain peaks drew my attention. A wave of doubt flooded through my body, from my head all the way to my heavy feet as I stood atop the summit of the tallest mountain for miles around.

An uncomfortable harness dug into my joints and the weight of the instructor on my back was off-putting. I began to panic as our feet propelled us forwards. Forwards, towards the edge. Towards the several thousand foot drop. Why did I pay to do this? What a preposterous idea! I closed my eyes as I prepared to fall, a bird attempting to leave the nest prematurely.

But I didn't fall. I soared. The doubt seemed to be blown away by the liberating breeze running through my hair and the marvellous sunlight evaporated my anxiety. Was this what freedom felt like? My nylon wings helped me glide effortlessly above the model villages and towns below – toys in my bird's eye view. A scream of delight seemed to leave my mouth without my permission, the instructor chuckling to himself.

"Enjoying huh?" he laughed.

I didn't respond – I was too busy enjoying the spectacular views the picturesque villages; the marvellous forest; the azure ribbons of waves weaving through the valley below. I was truly exhilarated, suspended in heaven by nothing but a nylon rainbow and my harness. Another shout of excitement unwillingly left my mouth as the parachute hit a thermal sending us even

higher. As we slowly descended we gradually turned a full three hundred and sixty degrees and again... and again...and again...

The valley seemed to be getting closer, although we hit so many thermals it seemed the thrill would continue for hours, each one lifting both my body and elation. Was this the best I'd ever felt? It was certainly the most excited. It appeared it was time to land as we dropped at a faster rate, a predator with prey finally within its grasp.

My feet treaded the air helplessly for a few seconds before we hit the ground running. The soft grass felt remarkably solid compared to the refreshing breeze of the sky. I grinned and wondered if I could book another session for the following day. Yes, I could, I was told. A smile beamed from my face. Only twenty-four hours until I was flying once again.

Awarded 19/20+15

### **Exam question**

**b.) "It's essential that more people are more active, more often." (Professor Laura McAllister, Chair of Sport Wales)**

**Write an essay to explain how far you agree with this view, giving clear reasons and examples. [35]**

### Sample answer 1

"It's essential that more people are more active, more often." I definitely agree with this view because there are children, teenagers, and adults having their health being impacted on in a very negative way in which could lead to diseases maybe even death.

Adults are showing bad influences on children and teenagers because children need to live their childhood and explore the open world and teenagers need to revise on exams and do some exercise but all that has been stopped by adults who buy their children games which distracts them and practically destroys their lives.

All age groups are either being affected by BMI or not but still being lazy and this is a major problem because if people are being affected by BMI then this can cause some body problems, diseases, and anything worse.

In this generation it is essential that kids start to go out again and be more active because they need to gain strength, muscle, and less BMI in order to maintain their lives and not be harmed in any way, shape, or form. Also you will be surprised knowing how many Men and Women from all age groups have passed away due to being unhealthy and BMI.

I've had some friends who haven't been active as much and that it has affected them in their learning and relationship in family and friends. Also I had been affected by this once because I remember being lazy. Losing concentration in work and other things but one day I decided to look back at what I have accomplished and what I have learned, only to find out that I didn't really do much as I expected and that's what made me go out more, do some exercise, go to the gym and try and achieve all those goals I struggled upon and hopefully succeed in life and when I'm older I hope I look back get everyone to do the same since laziness and health is important.

Awarded 6+5

### Sample answer 2

"It's essential that more people are more active, more often."

The debate whether children and adults are doing enough outdoor activities is an ongoing one. Ever since the growing development in the latest technology, scientists and health experts are claiming that being glued to screen doesn't only decrease our ability to think creatively and solve problems but also put's our health levels at risk. I believe that it is very important that more people are more active to ensure that everyone lives a health life.

Due to the rise in children on phones and computers there's been a staggering decrease in children and adults participating in outdoor activities such as playing 'catch' in the garden on a sunny day or even going for a walk through fields or a forest, which was quite common

years ago. I'm hardly saying that we should go back in time before i-pads existed, I only think that we should encourage outdoor activities as much as we encourage others to download the latest iOS update or buy the latest iPhone. Research suggests that the shift away from activities has made children weaker compared to previous generations. Even though physical activities often seem like a nuisance they can be tremendously beneficial in the long run, for children and parents. As well as the obvious health benefits that comes from being active, such as lower blood-pressure and a lower resting heart rate which can minimise your chance of having a heart attack or suffering from a heart condition being active also provides other benefits. Studies have shown that you're less likely to suffer from depression by doing physical activities due to the endorphins that are released during exercise. Also being fit and healthy can help with concentration and can improve your performance in school.

Although, I realise that not everyone has time to spare to go to the gym or for a run because we all have extremely crammed life-styles. For most people it's hardly reality to be able to go for a trip to the countryside with your families because your children need to be bussed here, there and everywhere. It's clear the health and fitness isn't everybody's highest priority these days because I understand that going for a 20 minute job doesn't pay the bills. Although I believe that it's very important to be active instead of locking yourself in an office all day doing a boring job that you don't even enjoy.

As well as health and mental benefits, being more active allows you to socialise with other people, maybe people that you never thought you'd speak to. This experience of bonding with others is one of the main reasons I enjoy outdoor activities: you feel part of a community which is exactly what everybody wants. Joining your local gym or a running or cycling club can give you the thrill of adventure while helping your body mind stay healthy. A healthy mind makes a healthy body, and socialising with others is a brilliant way to do so.

I thoroughly believe that it's important that more people are more active, more often. Not only because doing physical activities will improve your health but also because of the mental and social benefits that comes with being more active.

Awarded 9+8

### Sample answer 3

The days of activity are fading and yellowing with age; physical activity among 18-25 year olds has declined by 36% in the past ten years. But what are the consequences of leading such sedentary lifestyles and what are the benefits of partaking in sports?

For young people, today's society is predicated on academic ability, meaning that the need for physical activity has been neglected. Subsequently teenage mental health issues have rocketed, as teens are not taking advantage of endorphins released during exercise which can be used as stress-relievers. Keeping active allows young people and those in demanding jobs to alleviate their anxiety. It provides teens with the ability to step out of the brittle cocoons of their thoughts and metamorphose and feel at ease. Research by the university of psychology in London has shown that one in three young women suffer from depression or anxiety – a statistic that has risen alongside the decline in physical education in schools; only 15% of Welsh schools fulfil the required two hours of activity each week. Rather than addressing the fluctuation of the stock market prices in America, the government should be focussing on ensuring that all young people are equipped with the resources to live more active and happy lives.

Staying active provides a myriad of health benefits and lessens the pressure put upon economic demands. Remaining inactive can lead to debilitating and compromising illnesses, such as diabetes: a condition that can be fully reversed through living a healthier lifestyle. It is the duty of parents to provide an education to children on the need to remain active and to lead by example. Rather than telling a child to "go outside and play" and then demanding that they pass the remote control, which is sitting less than two metres away from the hypocritical adult, parents must encourage outdoor family activities.

Rather than revelling in the freedom of childhood- spending countless afternoon drinking up trees in the local woods and ruining your best pair of jeans at the requirement that the football is prevented from entering the goal – children are being absorbed by the horror that is social media. Spending more time keeping active not only decreased the amount of time a child spends being manipulated by the online world but it has the potential to reverse any damage done. It can be life-saving. Many young people seek validation online meaning that they relinquish their power to affirm themselves. Through refraining from social media through sports, a person's perception of themselves can be improved. Remaining active also heightens our awareness of food, providing us with a more positive outlook on the fuel for our bodies. Mental health specialists have proven that a person who enrolls themselves in an activity is twice as likely to overcome their eating disorder. Young girls who tragically feel like starving baby birds when you hold them or a handful of brittle bamboo canes, could be cured by a more active lifestyle and a healthy diet.

To maintain a society where the well-being of our people is prioritised, it is essential that more people are more active, more often.

Awarded 18+14

### Unit 3 (Argumentation and Persuasion) Sample responses and guidance

#### Approach:

- Candidates need to time this carefully – spending equal time on both questions
- Spend a few minutes planning each answer, potential content and direction
- Integrate (if relevant) materials from the Reading resources

#### Exam question

**B1. Your school/college is considering using more Fairtrade items in its canteen. Although this will help to support Fairtrade farmers, it will mean an increase in the price of meals.**

**You feel strongly about this proposal and decide to write a letter to your Headteacher/Principal giving your views. [20]**

#### Sample answer 1

Dear Mrs

I am happy to know that this school is starting to use and sell Fairtrade items in the canteen, but I am sorry to inform you that nearly all the school pupils are demanding to go back to non-Fairtrade meals because of the increase in prices.

Everywhere I go around the school I see pupils complaining non stop because of the prices, but I don't complain also it is nice to see the school turning a new leaf but to be hones I kind

of liked it more before because there was less of a fuss also people are now having a problem affording their food because of the increase in prices.

To summarise all of this we basically want to go back to the old ways when everything wasn't expensive and when no-one complained.

Awarded: 3+3

### Sample answer 2

Dear Mr

I am writing to inform you of my views and thoughts concerning the recent proposal to make use of Fairtrade products in the school's canteen. I believe that the benefits of this proposal greatly outweigh the small disadvantage of higher prices.

Fairtrade, I'm sure you will agree, as a highly influential company that offers available benefits to both parties – not only can we enjoy ethically and responsibly sourced produce, but the workers who supply these products treated more fairly. As a student in full-time education I believe that this is a blessing we should be honoured and delighted to be able to pass on by using products from Fairtrade. This organisation ensures a fair wage to farmers, allowing them to afford many things that we take for granted on a daily basis, such as food for their families and access to education for their children. Slightly higher prices for school dinners is a worthwhile sacrifice as it means we are able to enjoy responsibly sourced products while also investing in the lives of those who are less fortunate than us.

Fairtrade offers many benefits, not only to the workers themselves but to the community as a whole, including more environmentally-friendly facilities – some processing plants now use ovens that run off waste created in the coffee-making process, vastly reducing deforestation. Workers can afford to put money into their local communities in situations which could normally be very serious – many communities can now afford to report damage caused by natural disasters such as hurricanes or flooding. Working conditions are improved as well as the workers quality of life in general, and to me this is an invaluable worthwhile investment.

I look forward to reading your views on the matter and implore you to consider the imaginably positive effect this could have on lives across the world.

Yours sincerely

Awarded: 8+9

### Sample answer 3

Dear Mr

As a pupil of your school, I feel that it is necessary to share my thoughts about the introduction of Fairtrade in our school.

As a teenage boy, I love to eat. Many people do not care about whether their food comes from as long as it is a reasonable price and tasty. I am different. I take an interest in certain things like whether food comes from and who supplied it. From my own knowledge and research, I have a good understanding of the company Fairtrade and how they are run. In this letter I will express how I feel about the introduction of Fairtrade into our school.

I am strongly against the introduction of these products being sold in our school. You may feel very taken aback by my opinion as this company is generally perceived to be a reputable and fair company. But all is not as meets the eye.

Fairtrade is a company that originally set out to get farmers in poor countries a better life. I do agree that they used to be the very best company for trading and for looking after their workers but after research I was extremely shocked to discover that many people have found fault in how this so-called fair company is run. Through research, I have found that many suppliers now believe that their trade is much fairer than fair trade. Can you believe that?

Fairtrade simply isn't the fairest way to trade! In fact last year, a competing company paid an average of £6.50 per kilo, nearly twice as much for coffee as Fairtrade did.

I also have concerns about the working conditions in which Fairtrade farmers are working. Many cooperatives employ people whose wages are much worse conditions than those in non-Fairtrade areas. One example of this is a Fairtrade tea room where only senior managers were allowed to use the modern toilets! Who knows where farmers went to do their business. Can you imagine that? Going to work at a place with no toilets. It is truly shambolic and a breach of basic human rights.

I have collated some people views about the introduction of this proposal in our school. To be honest most of my peers either didn't care or were just angry that the prices are going to go up. For those that wanted to learn more about fair trade, I told them what I have discovered and as you can probably imagine they were just as baffled as I. We would question why you and our school wish to support these dehumanising unfair monsters that run (or exploit) the Fairtrade company.

In conclusion, I would like to think that I have expressed my feelings about the matter clearly and that I have hopefully persuaded you not to go through with this proposal.

Thank you for considering my views,

Awarded: 10+10

### Exam question

**B2. You would like to raise money to support a local charity.**

**Write a talk to your year group to raise awareness about your local charity and to persuade local people to support it.**

**You should include the following information:**

- *details about the charity*
- *what support the charity needs*
- *how your year group can support the charity*

**Write your talk.**

**[20]**

### Sample answer 1

Good afternoon year 10. Today I will talking about an alarming issue that we as a year group don't do enough about. Charity. Yes I know this can be boring but before you switch of imagine IF instead of pestering your parents for the next iphone you were pestering them for the next meal.



The Charity that I am talking about today is Islamic relief. They have been helping starving people all around the world with little help and a recent survey showing they have helped to halve extreme poverty in the last 10 years. If my maths is correct in another 10 years extreme poverty could possibly completely end? However, in my opinion you can always do more, I say lets try to end poverty in years. The charity primary focusus on children living in poverty aged like me and you children with little to no education something we take for granted these children walking miles upon miles when we get on a bus a minute or two away and get straight to school.

What support does the charity need you may ask? They need funding but more importantly volunteers with a real passion to make the world a better place. They also need help raising awareness and you can do this with little effort if you put your mind to it.

So what can you do as soon as you go home you may ask? Well start by raising awareness on school media and generally getting the message across of what good they are doing. Also going on there website and volunteering to raise money will help them a lot. And the easiest and maybe the best is to donate. I know we don't have that much money to give. Trust me I know but persuade your parents to donate.

In conclusion extreme poverty is going down but in my opinion with the help of you be can completely end poverty in 5 years with our friends Islamic relief. Imagine if your children were scavanging for one meal.

Awarded 6+4

### Sample answer 2

Good morning classmates. I am sure that many of your are aware that my friend ----- is ill at the moment. As a school we have decided to raise money for the charity that has been offering ----- tremendous support over the past mounth, and that's Ty Hafan.

Ty Hafan is a children's charity that offers help to the family. It allows ----- family to visit her before and after she has treatment which is something that they're unable to do in a normal hospital. They also arrange events and trips for children who are going through the same experience as ----- so she can make friends and isn't in a hospital bed all day.

This charity has been changing the lives of families like -----for decades but of course all of that doesn't come without a price. They offer support for free so charities like Ty Hafan mostly depend on donations from the public. The charity mostly need money as support but it would also benefit for volunteers to give support when they go for trips or even on the weekend. I understand that it isn't the most glamerous way to spend your Saturday afternoon but surly you'd prefer to help sick children than stuck on your phone all day, wouldn't you?

As a school, at the moment we are running low on ideas how to raise money for Ty Hafan. We've already put collection boxes by reception but we intend on organising a huge event so everyone can get involved. We intend on having a football match between the teachers and year 11 team which will surly spark some excitement and of course, competition. If you have any other ideas on how to raise money for this outstanding charity, please contact me by email to lunchtime canteen so we can arrange more activities and do all that we can to help families like ----- in this difficult time for them.

Thank you for listening and remember that this is a extremely well-deserving cause.

Awarded 6+6

### Sample answer 3

Boys and girls,

I am here today to discuss with you a charity I hold close to my heart. The charity is called 'Head above the waves'. It is a charity based in --- and they provide support for those struggling with mental health issues.

A few years back, I attended a mental health awareness course, which was where I discovered this charity. It opened my eyes to the reality of life. Ignorance maybe bliss but we need to wake up and face the fact that one in two people will go through a time of their lives where they will struggle with mental health. This means that half of you in this room, at some point, will battle with things like anxiety or depression - some of you may be going through these now.

I happen to be one out of those two people who struggle with mental health. I battle anxiety almost every day. When I was first diagnosed with it, I thought I had nobody to turn to or discuss this with. It was then I learned that 27% of teenagers have anxiety and I realised that I am not alone in this battle. Neither are you.

'Head above the waves' helps people struggling with depression and anxiety, self-image issues, and stigmatised conditions like schizophrenia. They provide support and offer guidance, they provide someone to talk to in the period of your life when you may not want to continue. They will motivate you to want to overcome the struggle when you feel like you are being pulled under and drowning, which is where the name stems from.

Unfortunately, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the charity to continue as funds are becoming scarce. We need your help. We need your help to ensure we remain financially afloat. By spreading the word, you can encourage others to make donations to the charity and possibly in a couple of years, we can return the favour by helping you out of a dark time. Please tell your parents. Tell other relatives. Tell your friends. You can't choose who will suffer from mental health issues but you can choose to help them. Share our details on Facebook and Twitter and help us give back to the community. Thank you for listening to me today and I hope we can secure both the charity's future and the future of so many vulnerable people, together.

Awarded 8+8

### Sample answer 4

The approach below is an extreme example of number counting but so many candidates are counting words when they would be better served proof reading. Please ensure that all candidates have a rough idea of how many words they can fit onto a page so they can manage their time accordingly.

11

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

LETTER: I think that it is a good idea  
 that they have Fairtrade items in a canteen  
 because if they don't have Fairtrade  
 in the canteen you wouldn't have much  
 food as you would now. and another good  
 thing about the pricing going up means  
 that they can make more money by making  
 the prices go up and they can get profit from  
 the food and another good reason the is there  
 is we support farmers they can  
 get more stuff than we want and th they

Examiner only

### Sample answer 5

delegates do not have this but it is an example of poor proof reading (or misuse of spell check... There is also the issue of formality...

Dear Head teacher,

I think you should sell Fairtrade items in school and college because it will help the Fairtrade farmers with the crops the life I know it will be a bit more money but it for a good coup

It will more food and dithering we have not trod to eat before some people like the foods so the is some think for effused. To in enjoy the so place can you make it happen so will can experiment on it people meant not pay the piece for the nice food from dithering place in the world

People have farers from it for month and month for it so if you can sell it all it the shop put are school canteen and we will eat it if it is good and if it will help us have a good day and can benefit the farmers kid so the farmers can put kid in to school. But if it does not sell the farmers life can become head

Love from Liam parker

Ps. Hope you can do some think about it because I get bored of the food

Antihl bance/antismant