

Some past questions and guidance on answering

Below is some advice about answering the Inform, Explain, Describe part of the exam, followed by a selection of questions from past AQA Foundation paper 2 Section B exams.

1. You have 45 minutes to answer Section B.
2. Make sure you read the advice at the top of the exam paper, which appears in a box like this:

Remember:

- spend 5 minutes planning and sequencing your material
- try to write at least one side in your answer book
- spend 5 minutes checking:
 - your paragraphing
 - your punctuation
 - your spelling.

3. Highlight key words in the question you choose.
4. Remember your audience and purpose – sometimes the audience is implied but the purpose is always obvious: it's inform, explain or describe.
5. Spend time planning your answer – examiners always report that those who show evidence of planning give stronger answers.
6. Think carefully about your opening line: it should be strong and effective.
7. Remember to use rhetorical devices just as you do with persuasive and argumentative writing: you still need to interest and engage your reader.
8. Look at these examples, all written as opening lines to a question which asked the students to describe the scene in a photograph as if they were there:

- a) I am in this picture and I'll describe it.
- b) I walk down towards the blue sea, across the yellow sand and dip my toe in the warm water.
- c) The sea laps beneath the boat; the only sound is a cacophony of silence.

9. Which do you think is the most effective opening line? Be prepared to explain why you have chosen.
10. Now look at the past questions, on the next pages, and start by highlighting the key words in each question.
11. For each question spend 5 minutes planning an answer.
12. Now have a go at writing the opening few lines to each question.

1. Write an **information** leaflet on an area you know well. You could include information on places to visit and things to do there.

Remember to:

- write about an area you know well
- write a leaflet
- include a range of information
- use language which informs the reader. (27 marks)

2. Write a letter applying for a part-time job you would like. **Explain** why you would like the job and why you are the right person for it.

Remember to:

- apply for a part-time job you would like
- write a letter
- use language which explains why you are the right person for the job. (27 marks)

3. **Describe** a place that is special to you.

Remember to:

- describe a special place
- give a range of details about the place
- use language suitable for describing. (27 marks)

4. **Describe** a person who is important in your life and **explain** his or her importance to you.

Remember to:

- describe someone important in your life
- explain his or her importance to you
- use language suitable to describe and explain. (27 marks)

5. Write a letter to the governors of your school **informing** them of the changes you would like to be made in your school and the reasons for these changes.

Remember to:

- write a letter
- use language suitable for governors to read
- inform governors. (27 marks)

6. **Explain** what your dreams and ambitions for the future are. **Explain** also, how you could achieve them.

Remember to:

- write about your dreams and ambitions
- explain how you could achieve your dreams and ambitions
- give a range of explanations. (27 marks)

7. **Describe** a nightmare world.

Remember to:

- write about a nightmare world
- use language which brings out the nightmare. (27 marks)

8. Many young people have concerns about the world in which they live. Write **informatively** about one or more of your concerns and **explain** the reasons for them.

Remember to:

- inform the reader about one or more of your concerns
- explain the reasons for your concern(s)
- use language suitable for informing and explaining. (27 marks)

9. Write a letter to a friend who moved away from your area three months ago. **Inform** him or her of the things that have been happening to you over the last three months.

Remember to:

- write a letter to a friend
- tell him or her about a range of things that have been happening to you
- write to inform. (27 marks)

10. **Explain** what you think is needed to build a good relationship between parents and teenage children and **explain** why you think this.

Remember to:

- write about the different things that make a good relationship
- explain why you think this
- give examples to support the points you make. (27 marks)

11. **Describe** a place you would like to be in right now.

Remember to:

- imagine you are in the place you choose
- describe what you see, think and feel
- use descriptive language. (27 marks)

12. **Describe** the person or people you would most like to go on holiday with you and **explain** why you would like to share a holiday with them.

Remember to:

- describe the person or people
- give reasons to explain why you would like them to go on holiday with you. (27 marks)

13. School students sometimes say they get bored in the long summer holidays. Write an article for a local newspaper informing students of the different things they could do to prevent boredom.

Remember to:

- write an article for a local newspaper
- suggest a number of different things suitable for school students to do
- write to inform. (27 marks)

14. **Explain** what qualities you think a best friend should have and **explain**, giving examples, why you think this.

Remember to:

- explain what makes a best friend
- explain why you think this
- give examples. (27 marks)

15. **Describe** yourself.

Remember to:

- write about yourself
- describe different things about your looks and personality
- use language to describe. (27 marks)

16. Change can be good, bad or a mixture of both. Write about a time in your life when you experienced change of some kind. **Describe** what happened and **explain** how you felt about the change.

Remember to:

- choose a time when you experienced change
- describe what happened
- explain how you felt about what happened. (27 marks)

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