

GCSE English Language

Unit 3 Toolkit

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Multiple Choice

Cardiff Castle

It's far from a traditional Welsh castle, more a collection of disparate castles scattered around a central green, encompassing practically the whole history of Cardiff. The most conventionally castle-like bits are the motte-and-bailey Norman shell keep at its centre (built in wood in around 1081 and rebuilt in stone in 1135) and the 13th-century Black Tower that forms the entrance gate.

What does the word 'disparate' mean in the text? [1]

- a) Dispersed
- b) Distressed
- c) Parallel
- d) Unrelated

A 50-minute guided tour takes you through the interiors, from the winter smoking room in the clock-tower with decor expounding on the theme of time (zodiac symbols grouped into seasons, Norse gods representing the days of the week, and a fright for anyone who dares listen at the door – look up as you pass through the doorway)

What does 'expounding on' mean in the text? [1]

- a) Banging
- b) Detailing
- c) Decorating
- d) Fitting

to the mahogany-and-mirrors narcissism of Lord Bute's bedroom, with a gilded statue of St John the Evangelist (the marquess' name saint) and 189 bevelled mirrors on the ceiling, which reflect the name 'John' in Greek.

What does the word 'narcissism' mean in the text? [1]

- a) Self-admiration
- b) Richness
- c) Nastiness
- d) Vain

Text Purposes and Reliability

The extract below is about Will Gane's experience running the 'Badwater' Ultra Marathon – a 135 mile running race through the desert, from ESPN.com, an American Sports website.

Why I'm running the world's toughest race, 135 miles through Death Valley

Entry into Badwater is as tough as the race itself. A panel meticulously reviews each applicant's endurance credentials and their answers to questions including, "Why do you want to run Badwater?" I knew I wanted to run with a purpose. But I was afraid and less than confident. I didn't know how I would be received as a guy fighting for gender equality.

With the support and encouragement of incredible women who have come into my life, I founded Echo 37, a website and movement dedicated to elevating the extent of this problem, examining the causes and exploring solutions. The name of the website pays homage to aviation pioneer and proponent of gender equality Amelia Earhart, the author of my favorite quote: "Never interrupt someone doing something you said could not be done."

The iconic status of Badwater has also helped me to raise funds for Girls on the Run (GOTR), a nonprofit I'm working to help the next generation of women to grow up strong, confident and empowered. There is no way someone could have convinced me to run 3.1 miles when I was 10, but these young girls are doing it and loving it, and they are going to go on to do great things.

Badwater is a symbol of strength and unity. It's not uncommon for a runner to stop to aid another who has stopped due to dehydration, hunger or exhaustion. Some endurance races involve crews who support and guide their runners, a mandatory component of Badwater. I have seen crews help all types of runners, and at times, have sought their help when I was in need of extra water or Gatorade.

At the Daytona 100 Ultramarathon last December, one runner's crew made cookies and handed them out to participants at mile 70. I can't explain how awesome it felt to be handed a cookie after running for 17 hours. Badwater epitomizes the proverb, "To run fast, run alone; to run far, run together."

Tick the statement that best summarises this text.

[1]

A – This text describes how he felt after the race

B – The text describes his journey through the desert

C – The text describes his reasons for running and preparation for the race

D – The text is about how to survive ultra-marathons

Write 'T' or 'F' in the boxes below to show whether you agree or disagree with the statements about the text's purpose. [4]

Statement	True or False
The text is aimed at one individual reader.	
The text is written to inform and entertain the general public.	
The text is written to help personal trainers with their careers.	
The text is intended to help students who study sports in school.	

Match the four text purposes to their definitions. [1]

Personal	A text about a specific job or career
Public	A text intended for a single, private reader
Occupational	A text used to help someone learn
Educational	A text intended for general use by everyone

Tick the box that best describes the purpose of this text. [1]

- Personal use
- Public use
- Occupational use
- Educational use

Summarise

Top tips:

Use your own words (synonyms)

Use bullet points (look at how many marks the question is so you make as many points)

Do not use quotations

Bryson's Wales

And so it was that I found myself, one warm early autumn evening, strolling along Llandudno's grand and sweeping promenade to the small and stylishly discreet St

Tudno Hotel. From without St Tudno's is largely indistinguishable from the other hotels that line Llandudno's sweeping front, but step inside and you find yourself immersed in a honeyed glow of Victorian elegance and smothered with kindness by Janette and Martin Bland, the proud owners, and their attentive staff.

Martin and Janette Bland bought St Tudno's nearly 30 years ago when it was an anonymous and declining B&B and have invested a lifetime in building it up. It has won a flock of awards, including Best Seaside Resort Hotel and — twice — Best Hotel Loos in Great Britain. I never scorn a spotless loo, but in fact it is the snug bar and outstanding restaurant that will bring me back again and again. Chefs Stephen Duffy and David Harding produce exquisite dishes night after night, much of it locally sourced. I had a saddle of lamb that was simply unimprovable.

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In your own words, summarise five things you learn about St Trundo's Hotel. [5]

The Fastest Lady on Two Wheels, by Petronella Wyatt

"Stop going so fast," I scream at Milky. He accelerates. Then he decides to brake. My head flies forward as if it has been severed by an axe.

"I just thought I'd stop to point out areas of interest," Milky explains. "We are approaching Ballagarey Corner. It's one of the most dangerous on the circuit." He continues cheerfully, "Once, I lost a mate there."

"Lost him? You mean he took a wrong turning?"

"No, he crashed and went home in a coffin."

We round the corner at 120 mph. Sweat is trickling down my arms. Another graveyard flashes by. Does this island consist only of graveyards? Finally, we leave for the Snaefell Mountain Course. Milky tells me we will get up to such speed that to any bystanders I will be a blur. I say I do not want to be a blur. I can see the obituary in the papers: ‘A blur died yesterday while attempting the Isle of Man TT course.’

But there is no reasoning with Milky, who is not only high on adrenaline, but convinced I am his best ever pillion passenger. The mountain course dips and swerves, and there are boulders and abysses everywhere. I see a few sheep. I suppose if I have to land on anything, I would rather it was a sheep. As Milky opens the throttle again, we hurtle past another discouraging sign: ‘Be very careful. 164 casualties in 3 years.’

We are on dangerous ground. In fact, we are no longer on the ground at all. We are going so fast we are flying three feet above it. “Where’s the bloody ground gone?” I croak. Scenery seems to be zooming towards me. All at once we are back on the ground, but I don’t like it any better, for my left ear is nearly scraping it. A passing lorry almost hits us. I think I am going to black out.

Then suddenly, I feel a massive surge of adrenaline. It has finally happened and I want it to go on forever. But Milky slows down and finally brakes. “How fast did we go?” I gasp. He looks at me oddly. He tells me we have hit 166 mph and have broken the course’s pillion speed record.

I shriek with ecstasy and insist we do a lap of triumph. I punch the air and shout out, “Look at me. I’m on top of the world.”

Summarise Petronella Wyatt’s experience riding as a passenger on the TT motorcycle course.

[10]

Thoughts and Feelings

Bryson's Wales

I don't remember it myself, but it appears that once, in a certain book, I suggested that there were some, well, small deficiencies in a particular Welsh railway line, owing to my experience with it on a wet Sunday out of season.

Goodness knows what I was thinking, but when it was suggested to me that I had been both unfortunate in my experience and perhaps just a touch churlish in my assessment (I know, it hardly seems possible), and I was invited to try again — indeed, to spend three full days sampling the delights of Wales by rail — I agreed to give it another try, particularly after it was established that I could start the experience with dinner in a superb hotel in my favourite of all seaside resorts.

And so it was that I found myself, one warm early autumn evening, strolling along Llandudno's grand and sweeping promenade to the small and stylishly discreet St Tudno Hotel. From without St Tudno's is largely indistinguishable from the other hotels that line Llandudno's sweeping front, but step inside and you find yourself immersed in a honeyed glow of Victorian elegance and smothered with kindness by Janette and Martin Bland, the proud owners, and their attentive staff.

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I'd have loved a chance to waddle off some calories the following morning with a tramp up Great Orme, Llandudno's sheltering mountain, but I had a train to catch — in fact a series of trains to catch. It has to be said that if you intend to cross Wales from north to south by train, you need a little ingenuity and an excellent timetable — not to mention a willingness to return to England from time to time. Most trains seem to have a curious and irrepressible urge to take you to Shrewsbury, which is very nice but is patently not Wales. The payoff, however, is that you can enjoy magnificent scenery without the exasperation and hassle of driving and you get to ride on some of the best trains around.

My goal for the day was to ride on possibly the very best, certainly the best known, the much-treasured Ffestiniog Railway, which runs for 13½ miles from the old slate-mining village of Blaenau Ffestiniog to the coastal town of Porthmadog, along the south eastern slopes of Snowdon. To get there I caught an early-morning Sprinter train from Llandudno to Blaenau, and there transferred to a neighbouring platform where a couple of hundred trippers were eagerly filling the snug and rattling wooden carriages of the narrow-gauge Ffestiniog Railway.

Wales, you soon realise, doesn't lock up its lunatics. It just puts them in charge of steam trains. "Oh, yes, you have to be a bit mad to get mixed up with all this," agreed Paul Davies, who was our driver for the day — and who invited me to ride along with him in the locomotive to see if I could get my clothes as oil-soaked and grubby in an hour as his were from a whole summer. (I could!)

The Ffestiniog line was built in the 1830s to haul slate from mountain quarries to the coast, but I stopped a mile or so short at Minffordd for a visit to Portmeirion, the colourful, endearing, architecturally frolicsome hillside village built by the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis over a period of 50 years last century.

It would be almost impossible to top the Ffestiniog Railway, but the ride on the Cambrian Coast line, from Minffordd south to Aberdyfi gives it a game try. It is a lovely ride, with the comely swell of mountains to one side, boundless sea views on the other and a broad estuarine plain in between. If there is a more soothing way to end a happy day by rail, I don't know it.

The following morning, I gave in to the inevitable and caught a train to Shrewsbury. There was, I hasten to add, a certain reason in it. I wished to ride the whole of the Heart of Wales line, and it begins in Shrewsbury, even if the heart of Wales doesn't. The line, running for 121 miles from Shrewsbury to Swansea, is celebrated for its matchless scenery through the Cambrian Mountains. It wasn't the fastest way to get to Llandrindod Wells, but it was surely the most rewarding.

If these experiences hadn't transformed my perceptions of seeing Wales by train, then my final run into Swansea the next morning, through an Eden of green fields and rolling hills, would have done the trick. It was sensational. So I take back everything I ever said, though I'm awfully glad I said it. If I hadn't, I'd never have been invited back, you see.

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What are Bryson's thoughts and feelings about his train rides across Wales? [5]

Lined writing area consisting of 20 horizontal lines.

Top tips:
Locate and retrieve appropriate evidence
Understand the writer’s viewpoint, not your own
Use inference to gain higher marks
Look at how many marks the question is to establish how many points you need to make

What impressions

I was brought up in Sardinia and Sardinian culture is very simple: you're a football player, a boxer, a waiter, or a cook. That's about it. I wanted Joe to be a football player, but he wasn't picked for this and that, and then when he was eight, I gave him a punchball and he was pretty good. I took him to the gym, aged 10, and the trainer said: "You have an open-class kid." I said: "What does that mean?" He said: "It means he's very, very good."

Now I'm not stupid. I know class. People say don't push your kid. But I'm completely the opposite. If you've got a kid with class – whether it's in tennis, studying or whatever – they've got to be pushed, because the day they don't make it, they will say; "It's because of my old man. He didn't give me any encouragement." But then, if it all goes wrong and you did push them, it'll be "Dad ruined my life". I've never been scared of pushing Joe, because my son is not a run-of-the-mill talent. He's a genius. I noticed that, and I was not going to let him live a normal life and destroy what I'd spotted. There was something unique there. Obviously, he wanted to play with other kids, but I was trying to make him understand his ability. Encouragement became an order.

I'm a dad only to the door of the gym. Then we're purely fighter and trainer. We switch off. Moody in the gym? Joe's a psycho. That works for us. That chemistry is exactly what we need in order for me to push him, and him to want to be pushed. That's the beauty of it. In the lead up to a fight, I call him a chameleon, a snake of different colours. He changes all the time. His eyes go from passionate and warm to cold and ice. I don't get any communication out of him. He's what you'd call arrogant and psyched up. That's what I want to see.

I never think of the danger. At the end of the day, boxing is a sport, no worse than driving a car. I've got no reason to be anxious or stressed. It's his job and he does it well. Because I've trained him, I know he's better than the other guy so I've never had the eyes of a father in the ring. It sounds as if I'm a sadist but we love each other to bits. I would never be training Joe if I didn't have the ability for it. A few years ago, there were some selfish remarks in a newspaper. They were saying he wasn't performing, even though he won. They were saying: "Change your father as a trainer." That hurt me because they wanted Joe to leave me. I'd got a win out of him so what was the problem? I said to Joe: "If you want to go, go. But I don't deserve this." But we rode that storm.

I don't know why Joe has never got the recognition he deserves. The problem in Britain is they love losers and Joe has never had the respect. He's too good for his own good – that's the bottom line.

We've never been tempted to leave Wales. When you've got enough, you've got enough, and the warmth we have as a family – you couldn't get that if you were a billionaire. You can't buy love. The family is the most important thing. If the fighting finished tomorrow, my job is done. I've been rewarded as a father and as a trainer. I'm happy – absolutely over the moon with myself.

Reproduced from the Sunday Times

What impressions does Enzo Calzaghe give of his son, Joe? [10]

Persuasion

Holiday fun in Sunny Valley

Sunny Valley is located on the Cornish coast and offers fun for people of all ages. Sunny Valley Holiday Camp has chalets, caravans and room for tents so it is suitable however you like to holiday. We welcome families and couples and even offer special rates for single parents to bring their children. Our chalets are spacious and comprise an attractive living area, two bedrooms and even a kitchen, with a microwave and fridge-freezer so you can stock up with all the Cornish specialities. For larger parties we recommend our six and eight berth caravans – the ultimate in luxury holiday accommodation. Both chalets and caravans have hot and cold water, power showers and the latest in satellite television entertainments. Everyone who holidays at Sunny Valley is assigned a Holiday Guide who will ensure they have the best time possible.

Parents need not worry about their children being bored. Here at Sunny Valley we have won numerous awards for our children's facilities. For the little ones (up to four years of age) there is a crèche and Junior Kids' Club. These offer mum and dad the chance to relax and spend some well-earned uninterrupted time together. Our well-trained staff have tons of activities prepared to ensure your children are never bored. For five to ten-year-olds there is the Big Kids' Club that offers activities such as mini-golf, bowling, go-karting and a party each Friday afternoon. The children can also participate in art and craft classes and make their own fab souvenirs to remind them of their holiday at Sunny Valley. Teenagers are often hard to please, but here at Sunny Valley we offer the Teen Club, offering go-karting, abseiling, rock climbing and other challenges that would tempt even the most difficult teen. Each Friday night there is a disco for all Teen Club members to attend.

There are plenty of entertainments for adults too. If granny and granddad need a break, we have daily Bingo sessions, sing-along around our grand piano and tea dances three times a week. After all, at Sunny Valley we believe a holiday should please everyone, not just the children. For more adventurous adults, there are boat trips, steam engine journeys and even a chance to race go-karts like the kids!

How to approach the question:

- You will need to find at least 6-8 points that show how the writer tries to persuade the reader, with evidence.
- Use the key word repeatedly throughout your answer. It helps you remain focused.
- Explain each point in detail. This is where you gain marks.
- Avoid just spotting techniques or telling the examiner that a technique persuades – you need to explain HOW it persuades – consider what is within the technique

Synthesis

Text A – ‘Relative Values,’ by Enzo Calzaghe.

People say don't push your kid. But I'm completely the opposite. If you've got a kid with class – whether it's in tennis, studying or whatever – they've got to be pushed, because the day they don't make it, they will say, "It's because of my old man. He didn't give me any encouragement." But then, if it all goes wrong and you did push them, it'll be "Dad ruined my life". I've never been scared of pushing Joe, because my son is not a run-of-the-mill talent. He's a genius. I noticed that, and I was not going to let him live a normal life and destroy what I'd spotted. There was something unique there. Obviously, he wanted to play with other kids, but I was trying to make him understand his ability. Encouragement became an order.

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I don't know why Joe has never got the recognition he deserves. The problem in Britain is they love losers and Joe has never had the respect. He's too good for his own good – that's the bottom line.

Text B – The Boxer's Tale, Celia Dodd

Since Joe Calzaghe won the world super middleweight boxing title ten years ago, the Welshman has remained the champ. In fact, he hasn't lost a single fight since he was eighteen. That makes him a great fighter; some say the greatest British boxer of our time. What makes him unique is the fact he has been coached since the age of nine by his dad, Enzo, a former rock musician who has never thrown a professional punch in his life. Father and son, who live near each other in the Welsh valleys, have had huge bust-ups within days or even hours of big fights. Calzaghe, who has a strong Welsh accent, says: "At times I hated him. When I was a teenager he kept pushing me into training when I wanted to go out with girls and have a drink like everybody else my age. He's a hard taskmaster and I wanted to rebel but he knew how far to push me. One day I'd say I was quitting, but the next I'd be back asking him for a lift to the gym. Now I can see when he's in a mood and, if I'm in a mood too, it kicks off pretty quickly. But ten minutes later it's forgotten. It's like any close relationship. When you see each other every day you start arguing about tiny things. But we don't hold grudges."

Calzaghe believes the pair remain close, despite all this, because they are careful to keep their personal and professional lives separate. Eight years ago, 'Calzaghe Sacks His Dad' was splashed across the sports pages. People were always on at Calzaghe to get a 'proper' trainer to replace Enzo. Calzaghe, then at a low point in his career, was tempted. He recalls: "When dad saw the headlines he was absolutely gutted. I could see it was ripping him up inside, but all he said was, 'You're my son. Do what's best for you.' After a few days I decided it was because of the injuries that I wasn't fighting well. I thought, who can train me as well as my dad? Who am I going to respect as much as my dad?" It was a wise move.

Compare and Contrast

Text A – *The Lion King* by Georgie Thompson

“Welcome to Shamwari Reserve,” I was told by my hosts when I arrived. “The lions are looking forward to meeting you.” Many people will never get the chance to experience what I and my flatmate – Sky News presenter Sarah Mee – did that day. The big cats on the reserve are rare and endangered so when Sarah and I were offered the chance to see them in as natural a habitat as you could hope to find them, we didn’t think twice. There is absolutely nothing like a safari holiday to remind you of your place in the world. It tends to put life, particularly your own, into perspective. Mine was certainly brought into sharp focus during our stop at the Shamwari Reserve near Port Elizabeth. On our first game drive, we encountered a pride of lions feasting on their kill – a couple of warthogs – and we thought our days were numbered when Jules, our guide, left us on a ledge while he went on a search for the best possible angles for us to see the hunted and the hunters. We saw lions stalk, sleep and eat and we were reminded of how small we are in the grand scheme of things – all the more so here because there was no fence to keep us from them, or them from us.

These are ferocious wild beasts – and we were grateful for the space that kept them from making us breakfast. My mortality was made abundantly clear to me by these huge, beautiful kings among animals. This knowledge only made the experience of being on their patch all the more special. The sense of danger is one of the reasons a safari is such an adventure; the unpredictability is one of the key attractions.

Text B – *South Africa’s Animal Rescue* by Britt Collins

At the Shamwari Reserve in South Africa, rescued animals recover from ill-treatment in zoos and circuses, and humans are quite well treated too. ‘Get here before sunset.’ The warning loomed in my mind as we raced the fading light across the rugged landscape towards Shamwari Reserve. As we reached the dirt road at the entrance, the sky darkened and a sleek, tawny-and-white animal I’d never seen before skittered across our path. We stopped to let her pass undisturbed, but she stopped and stared at us, her liquid eyes glowing in the dark. This animal, an oryx, makes a life for itself in the harshest conditions – a reminder of why we’d gone there.

Section B: Writing

What to do?

You will need to complete 2 tasks in this section, based on argumentation and persuasion. You can draw upon reading materials from section A where appropriate.

You could be asked to write any type of non-fiction writing which include: letter (formal or informal), review, leaflet, guide, speech or article.

Each task is worth 20 marks each (10 marks for communication and organisation; 10 marks for written accuracy).

Aim to write 250 words (around 1 ½ sides of A4).

DON'T WASTE TIME COUNTING WORDS!

Varied sentence openings:

Present tense participle (-ing word)

Visiting St Fagans, was both enlightening and enjoyable.

Past tense participle

Damaged by the huge energy bills, we have to make a commitment to save energy.

Subordinate clause

As we draw closer to the dreaded exams, it is imperative that we remain focused.

Preposition

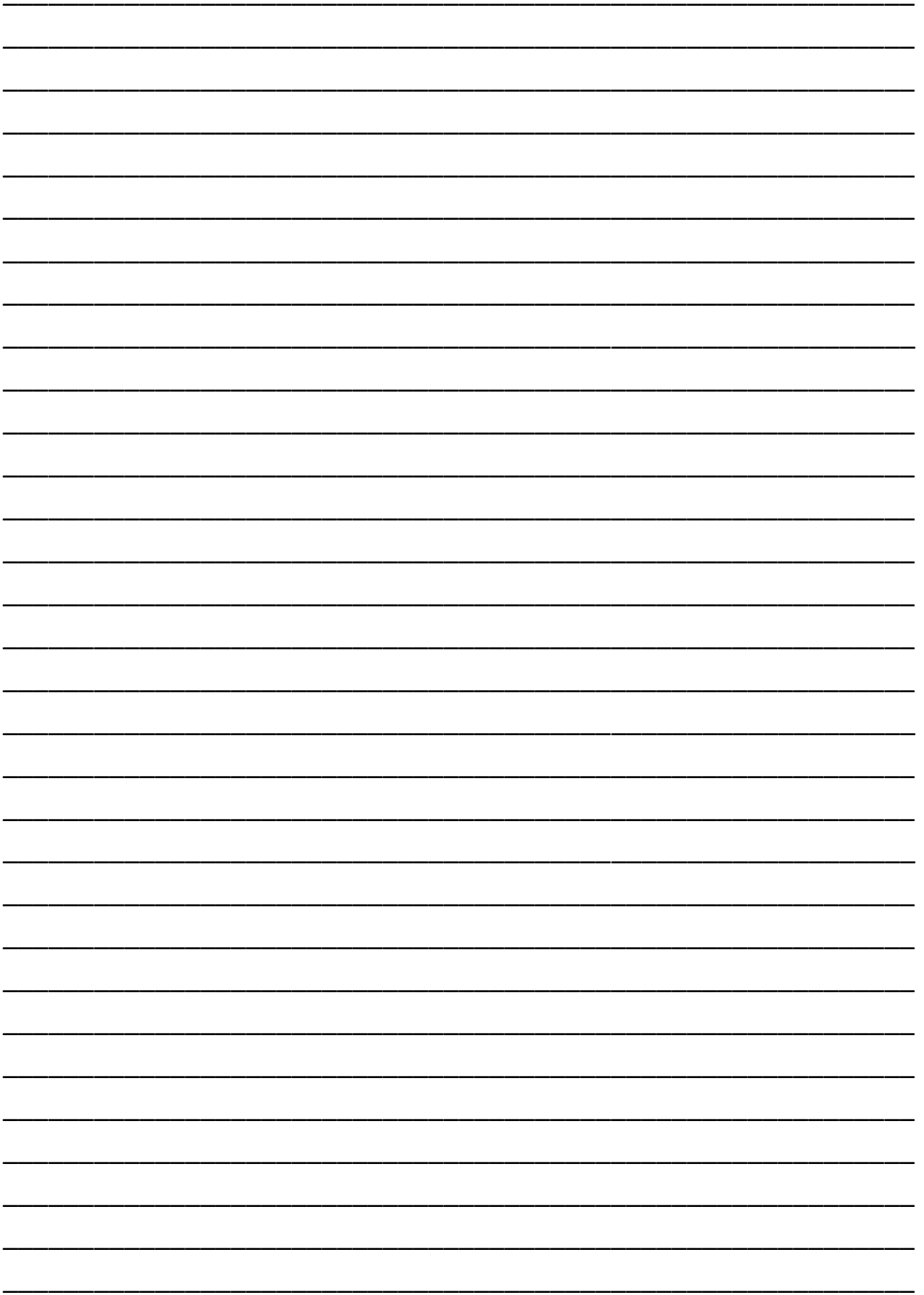
Within our local community, it seems ridiculous to host a motorcycle race.

Pair of adjectives

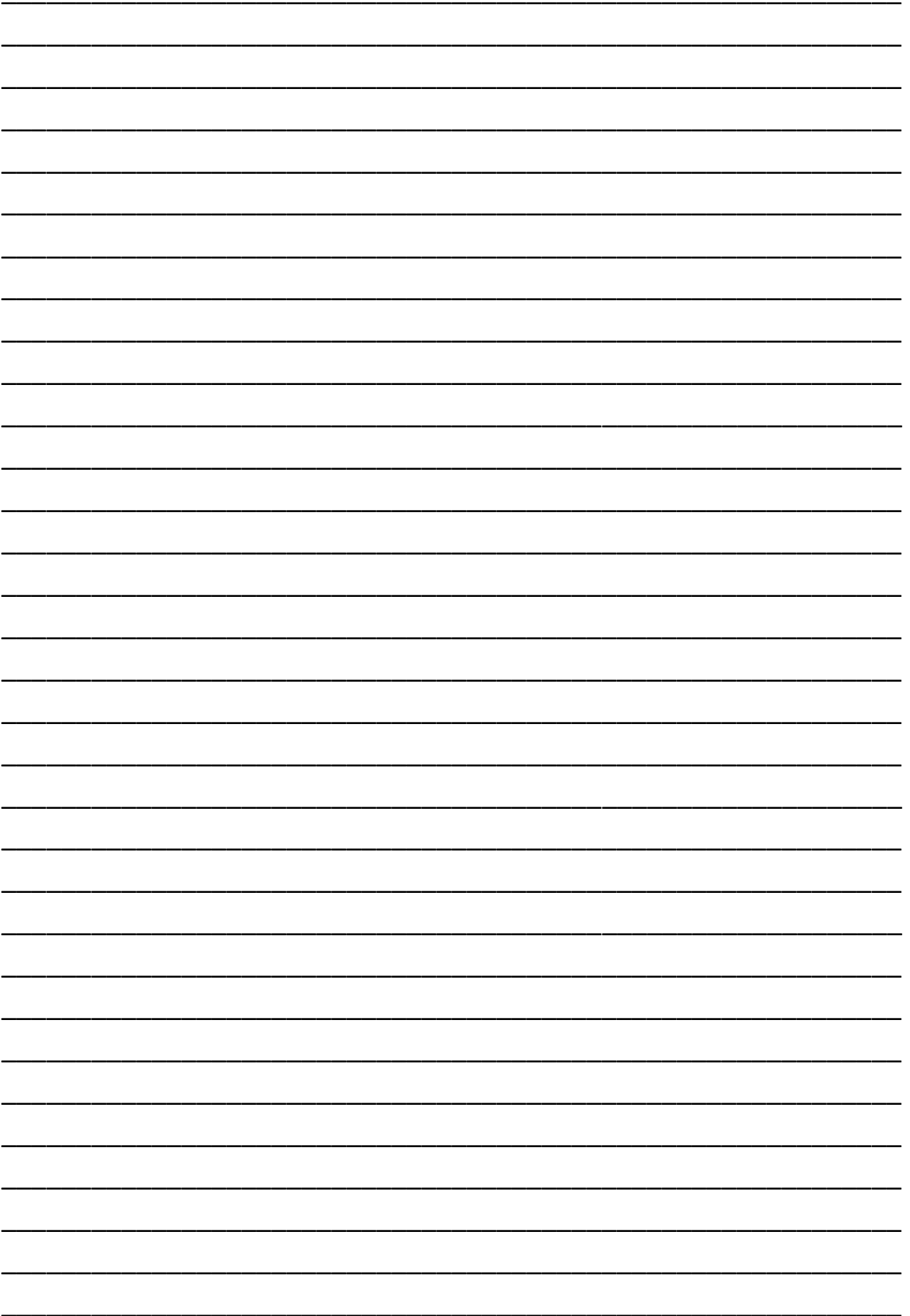
Traditional and authentic, the museum has so much character to offer.

Student Friendly Criteria

Band	Communicating and organising	Band	Writing accurately
5 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The writing is grown up. ▪ There is a range of clever rhetorical/literary devices and the piece is very engaging. ▪ You've adapted what you say and how you say it to suit the purpose and audience. ▪ You have used your imagination and how you write is original. ▪ The writing is organised into paragraphs and they are linked by concluding and topic sentences. ▪ FLAIR 	5 9/10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of interesting and unusual words are used correctly and for effect. ▪ You vary your sentence structure to achieve a particular effect. ▪ You can use capital letters . , ' ? ! : ; - () ... correctly all of the time. ▪ All spelling, including harder and more complex words, is correct. ▪ You don't switch between tenses and always make sense. ▪ FLAIR
4 7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The content is well-judged (you've picked the best things to say). ▪ You've adapted what you say and how you say it to suit the purpose and audience. ▪ Lots of rhetorical/literary devices are used for effect. ▪ The writing is organised into paragraphs and they are linked by concluding and topic sentences. 	4 7/8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of interesting and unusual words are used correctly. ▪ You vary your sentence structure to achieve a particular effect. ▪ You can use capital letters . , ' ? ! : ; ... correctly all of the time. ▪ All spelling, including harder words, is correct. ▪ You don't switch between tenses and always make sense.
3 5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sentences make sense and most of it is interesting. ▪ There is a clear awareness of purpose and audience. ▪ Some rhetorical/literary devices are used for effect. ▪ The writing is organised into paragraphs and they link sequentially. 	3 5/6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lots of interesting words are used correctly. ▪ You start sentences in different ways and use subordinate clauses. ▪ You can use capital letters . , ' ? ! : ; ... correctly most of the time. ▪ Most spelling, including harder words, is correct. ▪ You don't switch between tenses and always make sense.
2 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sentences make sense. ▪ It kind of suits the purpose/audience. ▪ The examiner can see you've tried to make it interesting. ▪ There are paragraphs. 	2 3/4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some interesting words are used. ▪ You sometimes start sentences in different ways. ▪ You can use capital letters . , ' ? ; correctly most of the time. ▪ Most spelling is correct. ▪ You don't switch between tenses. ▪ You usually make sense.
1 1/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The sentences make sense. ▪ There is organisation (e.g. one point leads on to another). ▪ It kind of suits the purpose and audience but not always. 	1 1/2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Everyday words are used. ▪ Most sentences are structured in the same way. ▪ You can use capital letters . , ' ? correctly sometimes. ▪ Some spelling is right. ▪ You sometimes switch between tenses. ▪ Some of your grammar is awkward. You don't always make sense.



A proposal has been made to hold a motorcycle race on the roads in your area. Write a letter to the local newspaper giving your views on this proposal.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of 24 horizontal lines.

