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MENTORA · N-LEVEL COMPREHENSION

N-Level English Paper 2

The Weekend Pack



Free edition · September 2026

Visual text

Narrative

Non-narrative & summary

GCE N(A)-Level English (1190)

MENTORA EDUN

About this handbook

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01 The one rule

Copying the text is not answering it

Every answer has two halves: **your words**, and a **point back to this text**. An answer that could fit any passage earns nothing. An answer that is only a quotation earns nothing on a question that asked for meaning.

1

Find the key words

Underline the two or three words in the passage that carry the meaning.

2

Change each one

Synonym, different word class, or a rebuilt sentence. Reordering the same words is still lifting.

3

Keep what cannot change

Names, places, dates and technical terms stay. There is no other word for Tuesday.

4

Point back

End by showing where in the text your answer came from.

LIFTING, THEN TRANSFORMING

TEXT: *The corridor was unusually silent, and the silence made her walk faster.*

LIFTED: *The corridor was unusually silent. (every word from the text — zero)*

TRANSFORMED: *She was used to hearing noise in that corridor, so hearing nothing worried her and she hurried.*

02 Feelings and attitude

Name it precisely, then say why

“Happy” and “sad” are almost always too weak, and a quotation is never a feeling. The shape is: one precise feeling word + because + the cause, from the text.

Instead of...	Try
happy	relieved · grateful · proud · content · hopeful · thrilled
sad	disappointed · hurt · regretful · lonely · let down
scared	anxious · uneasy · alarmed · terrified · on edge
angry	frustrated · resentful · indignant · irritated · bitter
surprised	startled · stunned · puzzled · taken aback

FEELING QUESTION — WEAK, THEN STRONG

Q: How did the boy feel when the bus finally arrived?

WEAK: *“At last,” he breathed. (a quotation — not a feeling)*

STRONG: *He felt relieved, because he had been waiting in the rain for nearly an hour and was afraid he would miss the interview.*

Attitude is not summary

Attitude is how the writer feels about the subject — admiring, critical, sceptical, affectionate, mocking. “The writer describes the market” earns

nothing. “The writer is affectionate towards the market and its traders” earns the mark.

03 Quoting

When, how much, and what comes after

1

When to quote

Only when the question says which word, which phrase, quote, or write down.

2

How much

The shortest phrase that does the job. Three words, not the sentence they sit in.

3

Exact words

Same spelling, same order, inside quotation marks. A changed word is no longer a quotation.

4

Then explain

In your words. Do not hand the quotation back: “‘trembled’ shows he trembled” is zero.

WHICH PHRASE SUGGESTS THE JOURNEY WAS LONG?

WEAK: “*They had trudged across the ridge since dawn without a proper meal.*” (whole sentence)

STRONG: “*trudged ... since dawn*”

WHAT DOES THE WORD SUGGEST?

Q: What does “crawled” suggest about the traffic?

WEAK: It suggests the traffic crawled. (the word handed back)

*STRONG: Crawling is how a baby moves — very slowly and close to the ground.
So the cars were barely moving at all, inching forward.*

04 Effect and technique

Name the effect, then show it in this text

Two halves, every time. The general half names what the technique does. The second half says what it shows **in this passage**. Giving only the general half — “it builds suspense” — scores nothing.

Technique	What it does (first half)	Then add
Present tense	Makes events feel as if they are happening now	...which shows [something from this text]
Short sentence	Sudden and abrupt — mirrors shock or speed	...
Repetition	Stresses the repeated idea	...
Simile / comparison	Shows a quality by linking it to something familiar	...
Ellipsis (...)	A pause — thinking, unsure, or building tension	...
Personification	Makes a thing seem alive and deliberate	...
Question to the reader	Pulls the reader in to think for themselves	...

WHY IS THE PARAGRAPH WRITTEN IN SHORT SENTENCES?

WEAK: To make it more exciting. (fits every story ever written)

STRONG: The short sentences mirror the girl's panic as the lift stops between floors — each one lands like a separate jolt, so the reader feels the shock with her.

05 Question types

How to handle each one, and the trap inside it

Type	How to answer	The trap
Reference (what does “this” refer to?)	Look backwards. Name the exact thing.	Looking forwards, or retelling the story
Tick two boxes	Underline the focus of the question first. Test every option against it.	Options true in the story but off-focus. Ticking three.
Match the headings	Sum each paragraph up in five of your own words, then find the heading that says the same.	Choosing a heading because one word appears in the paragraph
Two students disagree	Pick the one the text supports more. Give the required number of different pieces of evidence, each with what it shows.	One idea repeated four ways. Quotes with no explanation.
Quotation + explanation table	Different quotations from the named paragraph only. Explanations in your words.	Three quotes showing the same thing
True for both texts?	Both texts state that... / Only Text 2 mentions...	Answering from one text only

THE TWO-STUDENTS QUESTION — STRONG SHAPE

I agree more with Student A, because (1) the writer says the crowd “carried him forward”, which shows he did not choose to keep going — the moment did; (2) he checked his watch three times before the start, which shows he was anxious rather than eager; (3) ...; (4) ... — each point a different detail from the text, plus what it shows.

06 The summary

Continuous sentences, your words, only the points asked for

The summary is the place where lifting is punished hardest and where note form is punished hardest. It must be written in complete, joined sentences, in your own words, using only points that answer the question set.

DO THIS

- ✓ Underline the points in the text before writing.
- ✓ Paraphrase each one.
- ✓ Join them with also, however, in addition, as a result.
- ✓ Count your words and stop at the limit.

NOT THIS

- ✗ Number the points or use bullets.
- ✗ Start with Firstly, Secondly.
- ✗ Add your own opinion.
- ✗ Include a point the question did not ask for.

NOTE FORM, THEN CONTINUOUS

NOTE FORM: 1. Cheaper. 2. Less traffic. 3. Quieter at night. (three points, no sentences)

CONTINUOUS: Living outside the city costs less, and there is far less traffic. In addition, the nights are quieter, which makes it easier to rest.

Small rules that cost real marks

- ☐ Copy names and numbers exactly — eighty for eight is a wrong fact.
- ☐ Answer in a complete sentence unless asked for a word or phrase.
- ☐ Two-part questions need both halves. One half is zero.
- ☐ One sentence earns one content point. Two ideas, two sentences.

Monday 14 September

N(A) Paper 2 is 10.35–12.25, straight after Paper 1. In the gap: eat, drink, look at one reminder — answer in your own words — then put it away. Times from the SEAB 2026 timetable; follow your school’s reporting instructions.