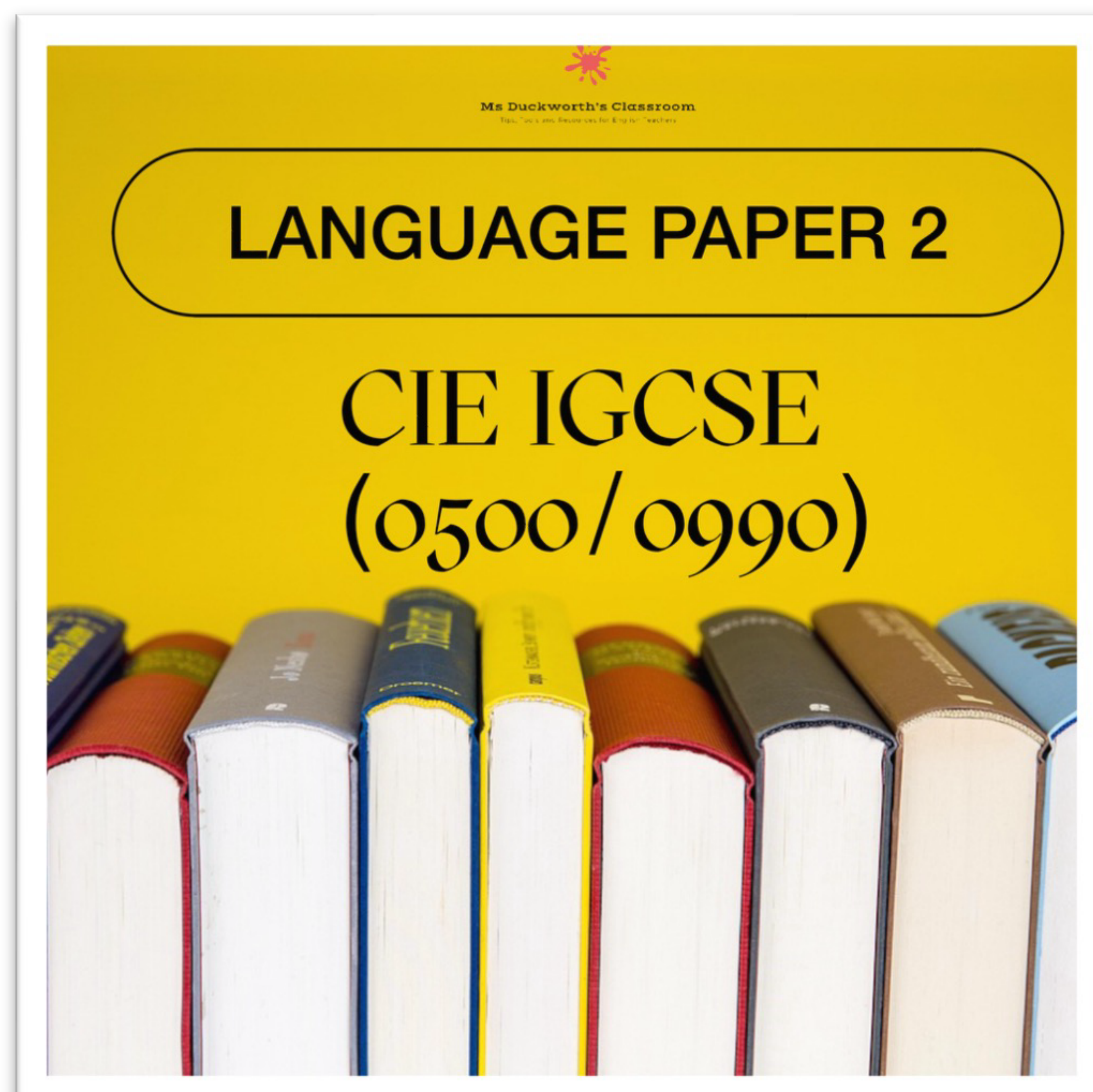


# Language Paper 2

## STUDENT BOOKLET

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



# Composition

- W1: articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined
- W2: organise and structure facts, ideas and opinions for deliberate effect
- W3: use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context
- W4: use language appropriate to purpose and to engage the audience
- W5: make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## Overview

In this section of the exam, you have a choice of **four questions** that are a mixture of **narrative** and **descriptive** tasks. You must choose **one** to answer.

Each task is a **composition**, meaning you are expected to **create a crafted piece of writing** that expresses ideas, emotions or experiences in a thoughtful and engaging way.

Narrative writing means writing a **story**.

You are expected to:

- ☐ Create a clear plot with a beginning, middle and end
- ☐ Develop characters, setting and atmosphere
- ☐ Include **conflict** – a problem, challenge or tension that the character faces (this is what drives the story forward)
- ☐ Use dialogue and action to move the story along
- ☐ Build tension, emotion or interest through structure and language
- ☐ Show not just what happens, but how it feels

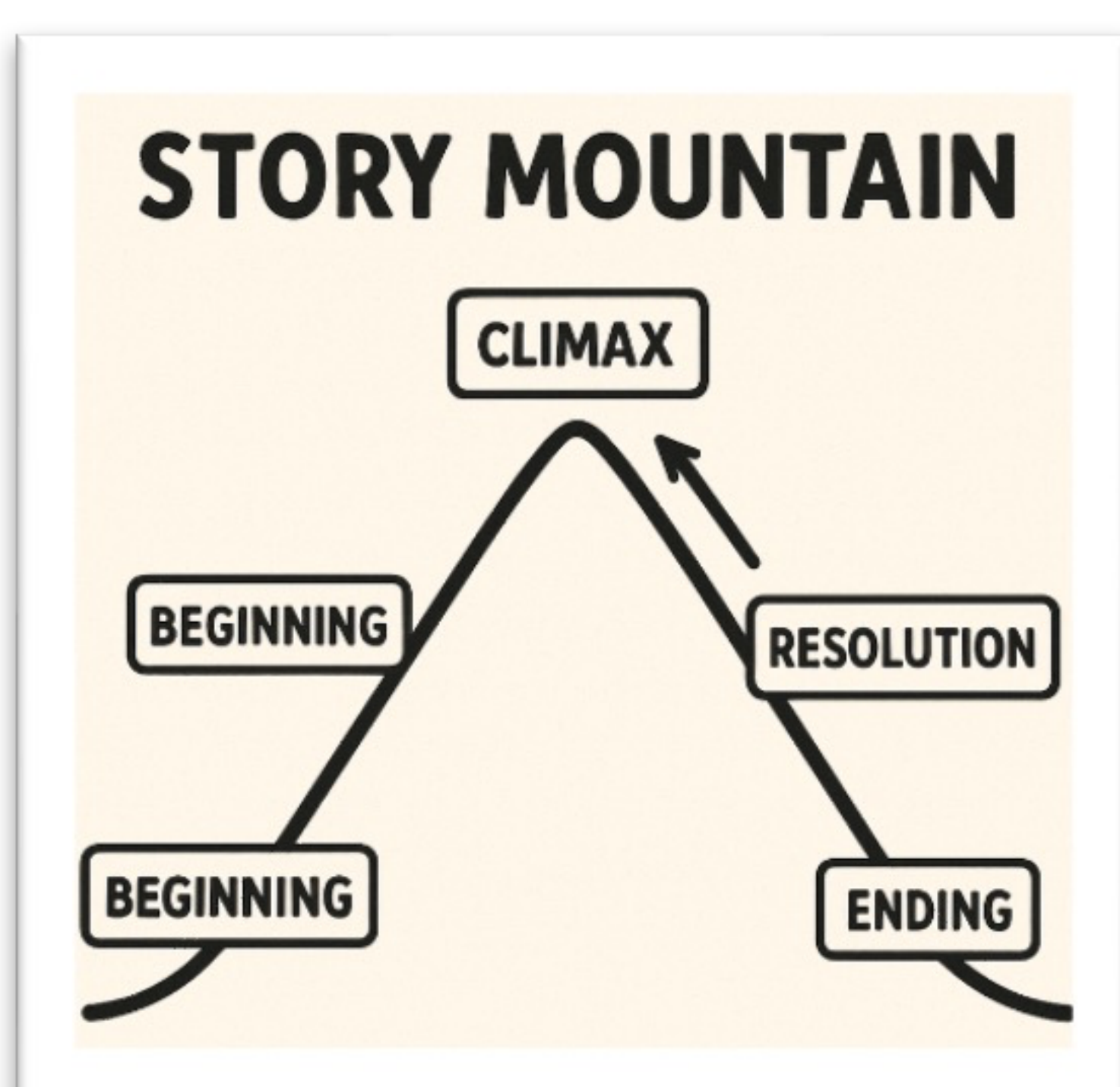
You don't have time to write a novel. Focus on a small moment with depth, detail and development.

Descriptive writing focuses on **painting a picture with words**.

You are expected to:

- ☐ Use vivid sensory detail (sight, sound, smell, touch, taste)
- ☐ Create a clear image or atmosphere
- ☐ Zoom in on small, specific details to bring the scene to life
- ☐ Avoid telling a story – instead, focus on **showing** what something looks or feels like
- ☐ Use figurative language (simile, metaphor, personification) to add depth and creativity.

Think of your writing as if you are looking through a series of **photographs**. Each paragraph is like a different snapshot, focusing on a specific part of the scene.



Composition

Narrative vs descriptive

| Similarities                                                                              | Differences                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (Both use VIVID ME)                                                                       | Narrative: Focus on events (something happens, characters act, problems arise)                   |
| Engaging opening and ending                                                               | Descriptive: Focus on snapshot (freeze a moment, create a vivid picture)                         |
| Use of structural techniques (e.g. repetition, contrast, shifts in focus, transition etc) | Narrative: Has a beginning, middle, and end (clear structure of action)                          |
| Thoughtful structure to guide the reader                                                  | Descriptive: Structure is looser – moves through atmosphere, senses, detail                      |
| Range of paragraph lengths for effect                                                     | Narrative: Driven by characters, conflict, and change                                            |
|                                                                                           | Descriptive: Driven by mood, setting, and imagery                                                |
|                                                                                           | Narrative: Reader asks, “What happens next?” Descriptive: Reader asks, “What does it feel like?” |

# Punctuation guide

## ➤ Full Stop (.)

- Ends a sentence.
- *The rain fell.*

## ➤ Comma (,)

- Separates items in a list.
- Breaks up clauses for clarity.
- *The wind blew, the trees bent and the leaves scattered.*

## ➤ Question Mark (?)

- Ends a question.
- *Where did the storm come from?*

## ➤ Exclamation Mark (!)

- Shows strong feeling, surprise or emphasis.
- *The storm was terrifying!*

## ➤ Apostrophe (')

- Shows possession: *The sailor's coat.*
- Shows omission: *It's raining.*

## ➤ Quotation Marks (" ")

- Show direct speech or quotations.
- *"The storm is coming," she said.*

## ➤ Colon (:)

- Introduces a list: *He brought three things: a torch, a coat and a map.*
- Introduces an explanation: *She stayed inside: the storm was too fierce to face.*
- Adds emphasis: *There was only one choice left: run.*

## ➤ Semicolon (;)

- Links two closely related sentences without a conjunction: *The waves crashed; the cliffs trembled.*
- Can separate longer list items that already contain commas: *The sky was dark, almost black; the sea, restless and cold; the air, thick with salt.*

## Punctuation guide

### ➤ Dash (–)

- Adds extra information or creates a pause.
- *The night was silent – too silent.*

### ➤ Hyphen (-)

- Joins words together.
- *A well-built shelter.*

### ➤ Ellipsis (...)

- Shows trailing off, hesitation or something left unsaid.
- *The storm grew louder...*

### ➤ Brackets ( )

- Add extra or less important information.
- *The storm (which had raged for hours) finally calmed.*



### Top tips

- ✓ Use a range of punctuation in your writing
- ✓ Try to use at least one example of sophisticated punctuation
- ✓ Ensure you are using punctuation correctly

# Sentence openings guide

## 1. Preposition

- *In the distance, the mountains loomed.*
- *Under the trees, shadows pooled.*

## 2. Simile

- *Like broken glass, the ice glittered across the lake.*
- *As fragile as paper, the leaves crumbled in her hands.*

## 3. Adverb

- *Suddenly, the door creaked open.*
- *Silently, the figure slipped through the alley.*

## 4. -ing Verb (Present Participle)

- *Shaking with fear, he stepped inside.*
- *Dripping with rain, the dog crept across the road.*

## 5. -ed Verb (Past Participle)

- *Exhausted by the climb, she collapsed onto the grass.*
- *Terrified, the boy froze where he stood.*

## 6. Subordinate Clause (Complex sentence starter)

- *Although the sun had set, the heat lingered in the air.*
- *When the thunder rolled, the crowd scattered.*

## 7. Single Adjective

- *Silent, the house waited.*
- *Broken, the chair leaned against the wall.*

## 8. Dialogue

- *"What was that?" she whispered.*
- *"It's too late now," he muttered.*

## 9. Onomatopoeia

- *Crash! The tree splintered in two.*
- *Whisper, whisper — the sound filled the dark corridor.*

## 10. Question

- *What would she find on the other side?*
- *How long could they keep waiting?*



### Top tips

- ✓ Vary how you begin – mix up prepositions, -ing verbs, adverbs, and similes so your writing feels alive and unpredictable.
- ✓ Match your opening to the mood – calm scenes might start slowly (*Beneath the trees, the air was still*), while action scenes need energy (*Suddenly, the door burst open*).
- ✓ Avoid repetition – don't start every sentence with 'The' or 'It'; experiment with word order to make your writing more engaging.

# Ambitious vocabulary word bank

| Category               | Ambitious Vocabulary                                                                               |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sight (what you see)   | glimmering, gleaming, shimmering, shadowed, murky, radiant, lustrous, dim, translucent, vivid      |
| Sound (what you hear)  | murmured, whispered, echoed, clattered, thundered, crackled, bellowed, hummed, roared, drummed     |
| Movement               | darted, lurched, glided, stumbled, drifted, swirled, twisted, fluttered, surged, crept             |
| Texture and Touch      | gritty, silken, coarse, jagged, smooth, velvety, rough, clammy, icy, abrasive                      |
| Smell and Taste        | fragrant, acrid, musty, stale, earthy, pungent, sweetened, bitter, smoky, zesty                    |
| Light and Darkness     | blazing, dazzling, dim, hazy, shadowy, golden, bleak, eerie, radiant, overcast                     |
| Weather and Nature     | tempestuous, howling, drizzling, torrential, arid, biting, gusty, serene, blistering, crisp        |
| Emotion and Mood       | melancholic, triumphant, restless, anxious, defiant, forlorn, elated, uneasy, hopeful, tense       |
| People and Characters  | determined, timid, resolute, desperate, sombre, spirited, cautious, reckless, vigilant, weary      |
| Setting and Atmosphere | desolate, tranquil, foreboding, chaotic, luminous, barren, teeming, sinister, majestic, oppressive |
| My words               |                                                                                                    |



- Top tips
- ✓ Use at least three ambitious words in your description but make sure they fit naturally in the sentence.
  - ✓ Choose precision over complexity. Pick the *right* word, not just the fanciest one.
  - ✓ Show variety and mix powerful verbs, vivid adjectives, and sensory nouns to bring your writing to life.

# Activities

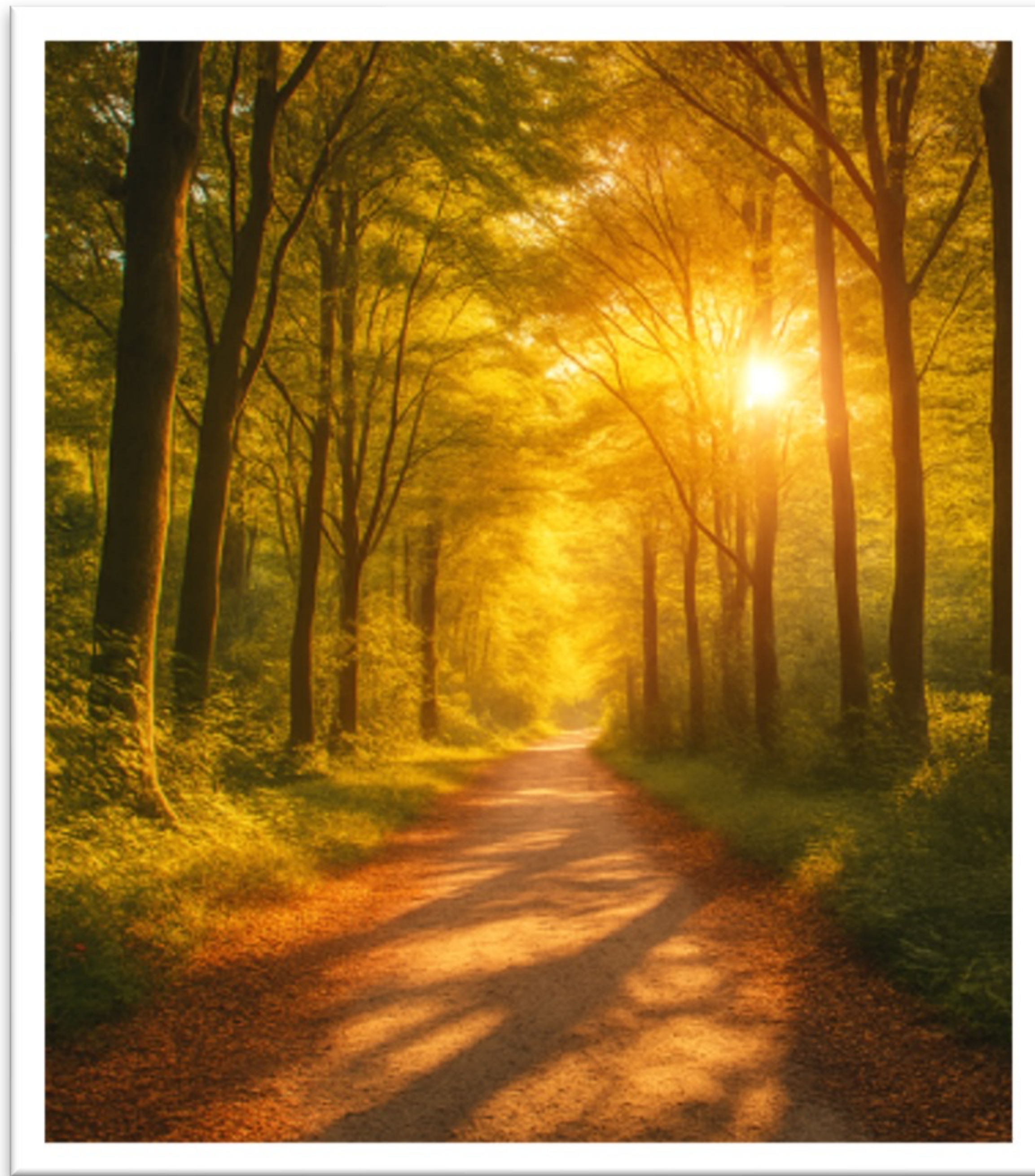
In this section of the booklet, you will complete a range of activities. These activities will help to enhance and solidify your understanding of the skills required in each question.

You will also practise some exam skills here.



# Descriptive writing: identifying tone

Annotate the images



# Descriptive writing: steps

What is the tone: \_\_\_\_\_



Wide shot (panorama): \_\_\_\_\_

Mid shot \_\_\_\_\_

Close up shot (panorama): \_\_\_\_\_

## Descriptive writing: steps

### Step 4: turn your notes into full sentences

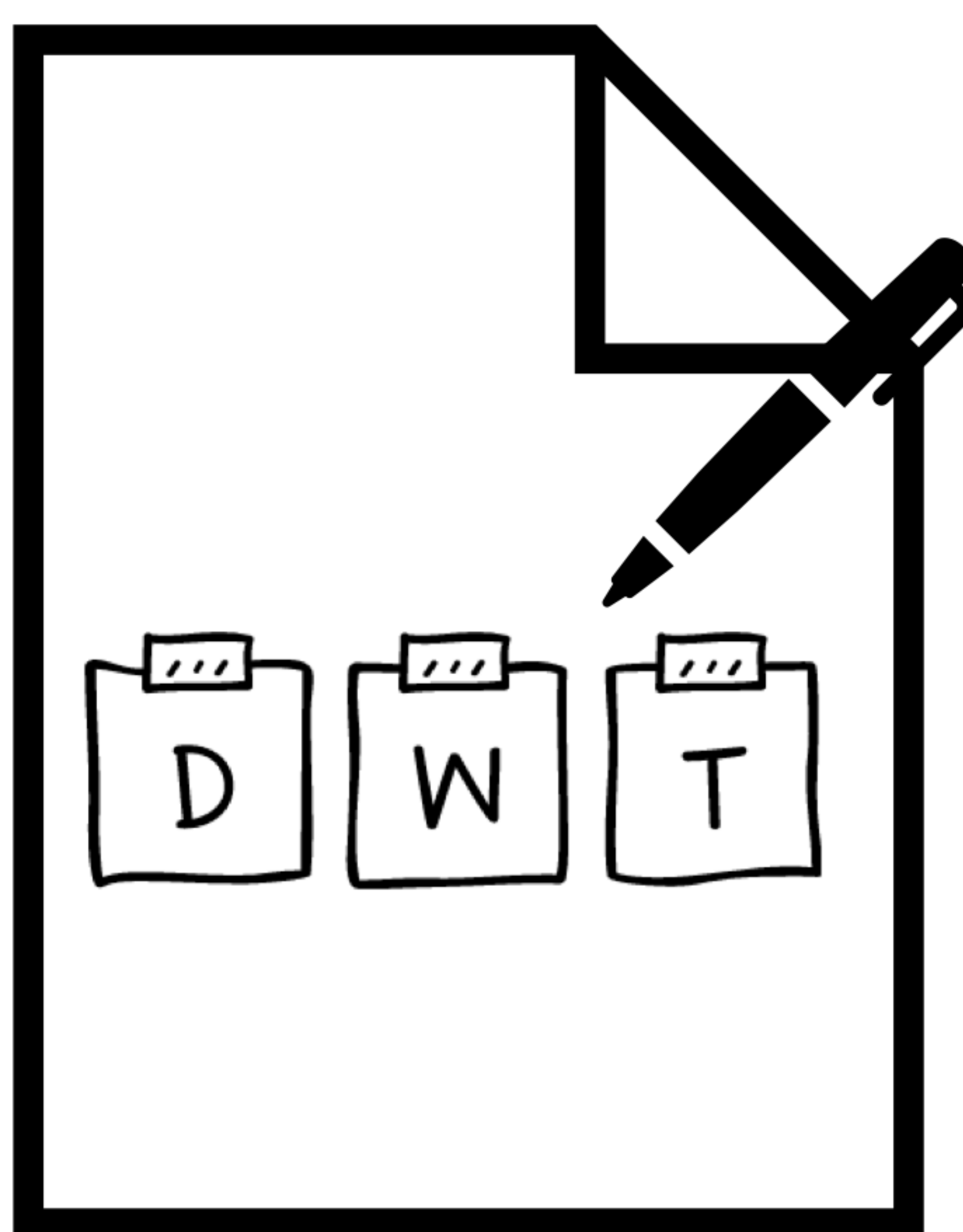


Wide shot (panorama):

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

# Dedicated Writing Time

## Tasks





Step 4: turn your notes into full sentences

Handwriting practice area with 20 horizontal lines.

# Homework tasks



# Through the lens

Find an image (online, magazine, or photo from home). Write a short descriptive paragraph using the camera lens technique: zoom out, zoom in, create atmosphere. Ensure you go through the steps.

- Step 1 – What is the tone?
- Step 2 – Decide on your shots
- Step 3 – Brainstorm Words and Phrases (VIVID ME)
- Step 4 – Turn your notes into full sentences / paragraphs

Glue image here

Planning notes:

# Through the lens