



AS English Language Assignment One

The questions you will encounter here are broken down into smaller questions than those you will encounter in the real exams, but this assignment is designed to test how well you have mastered the material on grammar, word classes and figurative language in Module One.

If you score less than 70% in this assignment, you should return to Module One, re-read the key material on grammar and re-take any quizzes on areas with which you struggled before moving on to Module Two. It is very important that you are comfortable with these basic skills before you go any further in the course.

RUBRIC:

- You are **not** required to complete this assignment under timed conditions.
- You may have access to your textbook, notes and any resources you need as you complete it.
- Please print out this assignment, fill in your answers by hand and then scan it in as one single document to submit via Canvas.

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

*This passage is taken from an autobiography, **My Family and Other Animals**, written in 1956 by British naturalist, Gerald Durrell. He and his family moved to Corfu when he was a child. In the extract, he describes examining a wall and the creatures that living in it.*

1 The crumbling wall that surrounded the sunken garden alongside the house was a rich hunting
2 ground for me. It was an ancient brick wall that had been plastered over, but now this outer skin was
3 green with moss, bulging and sagging with the damp of many winters. The whole surface was an
4 intricate map of cracks, some several inches wide, others as fine as hairs. Here and there large pieces
5 had dropped off and revealed the rows of rose-pink bricks lying beneath like ribs. There was a whole
6 landscape on this wall if you peered closely enough to see it; the roofs of a hundred tiny toadstools,
7 red, yellow, and brown, showed in patches like villages on the damper portions; mountains of bottle-
8 green moss grew in tufts so symmetrical that they might have been planted and trimmed; forests
9 of small ferns sprouted from cracks in the shady places, drooping languidly like little green fountains.
10 The top of the wall was a desert land, too dry for anything except a few rust-red mosses to live in it,
11 too hot for anything except sun-bathing by the dragon-flies. At the base of the wall grew a mass of
12 plants, cyclamen, crocus, asphodel, thrusting their leaves among the piles of broken and chipped
13 roof-tiles that lay there. This whole strip was guarded by a labyrinth of blackberry hung, in season,
14 with fruit that was plump and juicy and black as ebony.

15 The inhabitants of the wall were a mixed lot, and they were divided into day and night workers, the
16 hunters and the hunted. At night the hunters were the toads that lived among the brambles, and the
17 geckos, pale, translucent with bulging eyes, that lived in the cracks higher up the wall. Their prey was
18 the population of stupid, absent-minded crane-flies that zoomed and barged their way among the
19 leaves; moths of all sizes and shapes, moths striped, tessellated, checked, spotted, and blotched,
20 that fluttered in soft clouds along the withered plaster; the beetles, rotund and neatly clad as
21 business men, hurrying with portly efficiency about their night's work. When the last glow-worm had
22 dragged his frosty emerald lantern to bed over the hills of moss, and the sun rose, the wall was
23 taken over by the next set of inhabitants. Here it was more difficult to differentiate between the
24 prey and the predators, for everything seemed to feed indiscriminately off everything else. Thus the
25 hunting wasps searched out caterpillars and spiders; the spiders hunted for flies; the dragonflies, big
26 brittle, and hunting-pink, fed off the spiders and the flies; and the swift, lithe and multi-coloured wall
27 lizards fed off everything.

28 But the shyest and most self-effacing of the wall community were the most dangerous; you hardly
29 ever saw one, unless you looked for it, and yet there must have been several hundred living in the
30 cracks of the wall. Slide a knife-blade carefully under a piece of the loose plaster and lever it gently
31 away from the brick, and there, crouching beneath it, would be a little black scorpion an inch long,
32 looking as though he were made out of polished chocolate. They were weird-looking things, with
33 their flattened, oval bodies, their neat, crooked legs, the enormous crab-like claws, bulbous and
34 neatly jointed as armour and the tail like a string of brown beads ending in a sting like a rose-thorn.
35 The scorpion would lie there quite quietly as you examined him, only raising his tail in an almost
36 apologetic gesture of warning if you breathed too hard on him. If you kept him in the sun too long he

37 would simply turn his back on you and walk away, and then slide slowly but firmly under another
38 section of plaster.

39 I grew very fond of these scorpions. I found them to be pleasant, unassuming creatures with, on the
40 whole, the most charming habits. Provided you did nothing silly or clumsy (like putting your hand on
41 one) the scorpions treated you with respect, their one desire being to get away and hide as quickly
42 as possible.

1. Write a **single paragraph** identifying the four elements of **GASP** (genre, audience, subject and purpose) for this text. Give as much information as you can about each element and remember that texts can have more than one purpose. (9 marks)

[illegible]

2. In what tense is the text written? (1 mark)

(Total 10 marks)

3. Read the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

The crumbling wall that surrounded the sunken garden alongside the house was a rich hunting ground for me. It was an ancient brick wall that had been plastered over, but now this outer skin was green with moss, bulging and sagging with the damp of many winters. The whole surface was an intricate map of cracks, some several inches wide, others as fine as hairs. Here and there large pieces had dropped off and revealed the rows of rose-pink bricks lying beneath like ribs.

- a. Identify the preposition(s) in the **first sentence** of this excerpt. (2 marks)

- b. What does the metaphor 'rich hunting ground' imply about the narrator's attitude to this experience? Explain your answer in complete sentences and use appropriate linguistic terminology. (3 marks)

- c. Identify the determiner(s) used in the **second sentence** of this excerpt. In each case, identify what kind of determiner it is. (8 marks)

- d. List the two similes used in this excerpt.

(2 marks)

(Total 15 marks)

4. Read the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

There was a whole landscape on this wall if you peered closely enough to see it; the roofs of a hundred tiny toadstools, red, yellow, and brown, showed in patches like villages on the damper portions; mountains of bottle-green moss grew in tuffets so symmetrical that they might have been planted and trimmed; forests of small ferns sprouted from cracks in the shady places, drooping languidly like little green fountains. The top of the wall was a desert land, too dry for anything except a few rust-red mosses to live in it, too hot for anything except sun-bathing by the dragon-flies. At the base of the wall grew a mass of plants, cyclamen, crocus, asphodel, thrusting their leaves among the piles of broken and chipped roof-tiles that lay there. This whole strip was guarded by a labyrinth of blackberry hung, in season, with fruit that was plump and juicy and black as ebony.

- a. List all of the adjectives in this excerpt. **List each one only once.**

(20 marks)

- b. List all of the pronouns in this excerpt. In each case, identify the type of pronoun. **List each one only once.**

(10 marks)

- c. Identify the adverb(s) in 'There was a whole landscape on this wall if you peered closely enough to see it'.

(2 marks)

- d. List **one** example of anthropomorphism used in this excerpt.

(1 mark)

- e. What are the connotations of the verb 'thrusting' in the penultimate sentence? What does this suggest about the flowers being described? Answer in complete sentences. (3 marks)

(Total 36 marks)

5. Read the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

At night the hunters were the toads that lived among the brambles, and the geckos, pale, translucent with bulging eyes, that lived in the cracks higher up the wall. Their prey was the population of stupid, absent-minded crane-flies that zoomed and barged their way among the leaves; moths of all sizes and shapes, moths striped, tessellated, checked, spotted, and blotched, that fluttered in soft clouds along the withered plaster; the beetles, rotund and neatly clad as business men, hurrying with portly efficiency about their night's work.

- a. Identify all of the verbs in this excerpt. **List each one only once.** (7 marks)

- b. What are the connotations of the verbs used to describe the crane-flies? (2 marks)

- c. Look again at the description of the beetles in the **final two lines** in this excerpt. What are the key words and phrases in this description and what do these suggest about the nature of the insects? Explain your answer in complete sentences and use appropriate literary terminology. (4 marks)

(Total 13 marks)

6. Read the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

But the shyest and most self-effacing of the wall community were the most dangerous; you hardly ever saw one, unless you looked for it, and yet there must have been several hundred living in the cracks of the wall. Slide a knife-blade carefully under a piece of the loose plaster and lever it gently away from the brick, and there, crouching beneath it, would be a little black scorpion an inch long, looking as though he were made out of polished chocolate. They were weird-looking things, with their flattened, oval bodies, their neat, crooked legs, the enormous crab-like claws, bulbous and neatly jointed as armour and the tail like a string of brown beads ending in a sting like a rose-thorn.

- a. Identify all of the superlatives in this excerpt. (3 marks)

- b. Identify all of the compound adjectives in this excerpt. (2 marks)

- c. Identify all of the modal verbs in this excerpt. (2 marks)

(Total 7 marks)

7. Read the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

The scorpion would lie there quite quietly as you examined him, only raising his tail in an almost apologetic gesture of warning if you breathed too hard on him. If you kept him in the sun too long he would simply turn his back on you and walk away, and then slide slowly but firmly under another section of plaster.

- a. List all of the nouns in the **first sentence** of this excerpt. (4 marks)

- b. Identify the adverb(s) in 'The scorpion would lie there quite quietly'. (3 marks)

- c. List all of the conjunctions in this excerpt. **List each one only once.** (4 marks)

(Total 11 marks)

8. Comment on the effects of Durrell's description of the scorpions (**lines 28 to 42 in the full passage**). In your answer, you should write in complete sentences, include at least three quotations and any appropriate literary terminology. Be as detailed and precise as you can. You may also use the next page if you need to. (8 marks)

[illegible]

TOTAL FOR ASSIGNMENT 100 MARKS