WRITING NON-FICTION

Example question and how to get top marks

'Homework has no value. Some students get it done for them; some don't do it at all. Students should be relaxing in their free time.' Write an article for a broadsheet newspaper in which you explain your point of view on this statement. (24 marks for content and organisation 16 marks for accuracy) THIS UNIT AMOUNTS TO 25% OF GCSE RESULT

Content	❑ **Register** is convincing and compelling for audience ❑ Assuredly matched to **purpose** ❑ Extensive and ambitious **vocabulary** with sustained crafting of **linguistic devices**
Organisation	❑ Varied and inventive use of **structural** features ❑ Writing is compelling, incorporating a range of convincing and **complex ideas** ❑ Fluently linked **paragraphs** with seamlessly integrated **discourse markers**
Technical accuracy	❑ Wide range of **punctuation** is used with a high level of accuracy ❑ Uses a full range of appropriate **sentence forms** for effect ❑ Uses **Standard English** consistently and appropriately with secure control of complex grammatical **structures** ❑ High level of accuracy in **spelling**, including ambitious vocabulary ❑ Extensive and ambitious use of **vocabulary**

Possible writing purposes

Explain	Q - Explain what you think about..... ❑ Be factual ❑Give a balanced view (but not contradictory) ❑Use evidence to support your view ❑Use connectives of comparison ❑Write in 3rd or 1st person
Instruct/ Advice	Q - Advise the reader of the best way.... ❑Be factual ❑Write in present tense ❑Use connectives ❑Use technical terms ❑Write in 2nd person
Argue	Q - Argue the case for/against.... ❑ Both sides of the argument ❑ Promote one side more than the other ❑ Counter arguments ❑ IAMAFORESTER
Persuade	Q - Persuade the writer of the statement that... ❑IAMAFORESTER ❑One-sided argument

Assessment Objectives

AO5 - Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

A05 - Organise information & ideas, using structural & grammatical features to support coherence & cohesion

A06 - Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Possible layouts/types of text/formats

Letter	❑the use of addresses & date ❑a formal mode of address e.g. Dear Sir/Madam or a named recipient ❑effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs ❑an appropriate mode of signing off: Yours sincerely/faithfully.
Article	❑Broadsheet = formal/Local or tabloid = informal ❑a clear/apt/original title ❑a strapline & subheadings ❑an introductory (overview) paragraph ❑effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs.
Leaflet (text only)	❑a clear/apt/original title ❑organisational devices such as inventive subheadings or boxes ❑bullet points ❑effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs.
Speech (text only)	❑a clear address to an audience ❑effective/fluently linked sections to indicate sequence ❑rhetorical indicators that an audience is being addressed ❑a clear sign off e.g. 'Thank you for listening'.
Essay	❑an effective introduction and convincing conclusion ❑effectively/fluently linked paragraphs to sequence a range of ideas.

Stretch yourself

Take a bold standpoint: hook/tone/style. Also consider cohesive devices: adverbials/pronouns/reference chains/ synonyms/rhetorical questions/discourse markers.

The Basics

- Capital letters
- Full stops
- Question marks
- Commas
- Apostrophes
- Consistent tense
- Ellipsis ....
- Homophone spellings
- Connectives
- Semi-colons
- Colons
- Vary sentence starts/lengths
- Vary paragraph lengths
- Topic sentences

Sentence starts

- Verb – Running quickly, she .....
- Adverb – Darkly, the night sky....
- Adjective – Red light filled the ...
- Preposition – Down there, all...
- Connective – However, his life...

I AM A FORESTER

Imperative verbs	*Repetition*
Address the reader	Emotive lang./ exaggeration
Modal verbs	Statistics
Alliteration	Triadic structure
Figurative lang.	Expert opinion
Opinion	Rhetorical q.

The Exam

- 45 minutes – 1 task – no choice
- Step one: read & highlight key words in question
- Step two: Identify the PAT/PAF/PAL
- Step three: Plan 6 -8 things you can include, then put them in order (Steps 1 to 3 = 10 mins)
- Step four: Write it (Step 4 = 30 mins)
- Step five (MOST IMPORTANT): Lip check (Step 5 = 5 minutes)

Audience

An audience your age:
- ❑ Colloquial expressions and sayings and references to modern culture.
- ❑ Frequent use of direct address.
- ❑ Use of humour and sarcasm.
- ❑ Affronted conjunctions (So...)

An older audience:
- ❑ Keep it formal. BUT remember they're not the Queen! (One is outraged my good sir)
- ❑ Avoid references to modern culture, humour and sarcasm.
- ❑ Avoid using contractions (do not instead of don't)