



# Cambridge Lower Secondary Checkpoint

CANDIDATE  
NAME

CENTRE  
NUMBER

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**ENGLISH**

**0861/02**

Paper 2 Fiction

**April 2025**

**1 hour 10 minutes**

You must answer on the question paper.

You will need: Insert (enclosed)

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Use a black or dark blue pen.
- Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the boxes at the top of the page.
- Write your answer to each question in the space provided.
- Do **not** use an erasable pen or correction fluid.
- Do **not** write on any bar codes.

## INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].
- The insert contains the reading text.

This document has **8** pages.

**Section A: Reading**

*Spend 35 minutes on this section.*

Read the **text** in the insert, and answer Questions 1–8.

1 Look at the first and second paragraphs (lines 2–7).

(a) Which adverb tells the reader that the writer really wanted to visit the island?

..... [1]

(b) Give a **four-word** phrase which means doing something 'before considering the consequences'.

..... [1]

2 Look at the third paragraph (lines 8–12).

(a) Give a **three-word** phrase that makes a reference to both the size **and** neglect of the building.

..... [1]

(b) Give **one** quotation which shows the theme of neglect extends beyond the building.

..... [1]

(c) Why does the writer use brackets ( ) in this paragraph?  
Tick (✓) **one** box.

to give an example

to explain text that follows

to define the meaning of a phrase

to emphasise previous information

[1]

3 Look at the fourth paragraph (lines 13–22).

(a) Why is it possible to see the village from the house?

..... [1]

(b) Why is the orchard *groaning*?

Tick (✓) **one** box.

There is too much fruit on the trees.

The fruit trees have been neglected for too long.

There are too many different types of fruit trees.

The trees are too old to produce much fruit.

[1]

(c) Why is the water beyond the crumbling steps so calm?

..... [1]

(d) The narrator refers to the island as a treasure.

Give **one** word from this paragraph that supports this idea.

..... [1]

4 Look at the fifth paragraph (lines 23–26).

The narrator uses personification to refer to the house.

Give the quotation.

Explain using your own words what the narrator feels about the house.

Quotation: .....

Explanation: .....

[2]

- 5 Look at the sixth and seventh paragraphs (lines 27–41).  
Do you think the description of the house interior makes it sound like a comfortable place?  
Tick (✓) **one** box.

Yes

No

Give **two** reasons for your opinion.  
Support **each** reason with a quotation from the text.

Reason 1: .....

.....

Quotation 1: .....

.....

Reason 2: .....

.....

Quotation 2: .....

.....

[4]

- 6 Look at line 42.  
The writer uses the pronoun *them*. How does this help to create tension?

..... [1]

7 Look at lines 43–53.

(a) Give **two** words which show how violent the storm is.

- .....
- .....

[2]

(b) The writer builds up tension from line 48 to the end of the text.  
Explain how the writer uses sentence structure and text structure to do this.  
Give **two** ideas.

- .....
- .....

[2]

8 Look at the whole text again.

(a) How does the writer gain our attention in the first paragraph?

.....  
..... [2]

(b) In lines 2–3, the idea of an apple is first introduced. Why are apples important throughout the rest of the text?  
Give **three** ideas.

- .....
- .....
- .....

[3]

**Section B: Writing**

*Spend 35 minutes on this section.*

- 9 Imagine you are one of the people who find the narrator in the house. Write a story about the encounter.

You should consider:

- who you are and why you are in the house
- how you react to finding the narrator
- what happens next.

Use the space in the box below to plan your answer.

Do **not** use the space for your answer. You **must** write your answer on the answer lines on the next page.

Space for your plan:



