



11+ English: Creative Writing Checklist

Use this checklist to assess how well your writing meets the task's goals. Each section tells you what to look for. *Please note that the actual distribution of marks will vary from school to school. This is simply a guide.*

For a bank of prompts and sample answers, [click here](#).

1. Purpose and Organisation

Does your writing...

- Answer the question or match the writing prompt?
- Have a clear **beginning, middle and ending**, if necessary?
- Use **paragraphs** to show new ideas or moments?
- Include **descriptive details** or **clear thoughts**?
- Finish with a **strong ending** or **conclusion** that makes sense?

2. Vocabulary & Language

Does your writing...

- Use **ambitious and precise vocabulary** that matches the tone/ style/ atmosphere?
- Use **writers' tools** – like alliteration, unique similes & metaphors, or rhetorical questions?
- Help the reader **see, hear, or feel** what's happening through description?

3. Style & Creativity

Does your writing...

- Use **different sentence lengths** to create excitement or calm?
- Start sentences in **different ways** (not always with “I” or “The”? (ISPACE)
- Match the **right format** (e.g. a story, diary, letter, or description)?
- Use ‘show, don’t tell’ to sound like a real story, rather than a list of events? (for narrative or descriptive tasks)
- Address the prompt creatively or originally?

4. Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Does your writing...

- Use **capital letters, full stops and commas** correctly?
- Include other punctuation (speech marks, semicolons, dashes, etc.)?
- Use **correct spelling**? Watch out for homophones!
- Have **good grammar** and proper sentences that make sense?
- Use the **right tense** all the way through (past, present or future)?

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