

Year 8 English Exams

Your exam will take place in the week commencing **Monday**

You will be tested on the skills you have developed this year. Your exam will last **50 minutes** in total (and you will be given extra time if you are entitled to this). There will be two sections: a Reading Section and a Writing Section.

The Reading Section

- This will be **25 minutes** long. You will answer one essay-style question based on an extract from a text that you have studied this year.
- You should start by spending five minutes reading the extract that you are given. You can highlight or write on the extract with some ideas you have in this time if you would like to.
- You will then have a question to answer which focused on how a particular mood or atmosphere is presented in the extract. You should write in Point - Evidence - Analyse (PEA) paragraphs, so you should use quotations (evidence) from the extract to support your ideas. There will be bullet points to guide you in your response.
- Your response will be marked out of 25, and you will not be marking for spelling, punctuation or grammar. However, try to ensure that your spelling is as accurate as possible and your expression is clear so your meaning is easily understood.
- Check your response at the end of the exam.

The Writing Section

- This will be **25 minutes** long. You will write one creative response, from a choice of two tasks. You **DO NOT** need to answer both tasks - you choose the one that you feel most confident writing about.
- You should spend five minutes choosing a task and planning your response in the exam booklet.
- Your response will be marked out of 25, and you will be marked for the accuracy of spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Make sure you leave time to check your response at the end of the exam, paying particular attention to your accuracy.

Ways that you can revise and prepare

1. Revise some of the key language features and devices you have looked at in lessons for example: narrative perspective, metaphors, similes, personification, alliteration, onomatopoeia, pathetic fallacy, superlatives, rhetorical questions, repetition, emotive language, sensory imagery, sentence structures, punctuation, paragraphing, adjectives, adverbs, verbs and so on.
2. Explore an extract (one or two paragraphs) from a fiction book you've read recently and identify any devices the writer has used and the effects created by the devices. Consider **WHY** the writer used these devices in the text.
3. Practise selecting/retrieving quotations from an extract in a fiction text to explore **HOW** and **WHY** the writer uses language or structure in an interesting way.
4. Practise writing a PEA paragraph explaining **HOW** and **WHY** the writer uses the devices to create a particular impact on their reader or **HOW** and **WHY** the devices help to engage the reader or create a mood or atmosphere.
5. Read over the targets and advice you have been given by your teacher this year and think about how you can improve upon your classwork and assessments based upon the targets you've been given.
6. BBC Bitesize revision has some related revision activities: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3>