

English Dept exam information for the website.

### **Year 7 – Poetry Exam**

- The exam lasts 45 minutes and it is a test of reading.
- In your exam you will have a poem that you have not studied before. You will be asked a series of questions about it.
- You will be asked to identify certain poetic techniques giving an example from the poem.
- You will be asked to analyse how the poet uses language and the effect it has on the reader.
- You will be asked to explain your own ideas concerning the meaning of the poem.
- For revision you should look back at the work you did on the 'Introduction to poetry' unit in the autumn term. You can revise the poetic techniques you covered such as: onomatopoeia, metaphor, simile, personification etc. You can think about how you would define poetry.

*The end of year exam forms just one element of the ongoing assessments in reading, writing and speaking and listening that the English department use to determine student progress.*

### **Year 8 – Nineteenth Century Unseen Fiction Extract**

- The exam lasts one hour and is a test of reading
- In your exam you will be given a short extract (approximately 40 lines) from a nineteenth century novel or short story that you have not seen before.
- You will be asked 4 questions worth an increasing number of marks. Make sure you keep an eye on the time!
- You are allowed to write on the exam paper – annotate, underline, highlight etc.
- You have to be able to extract information from the text
- You have to be able to analyse how a writer uses language and structure to achieve particular effects
- You have to be able to evaluate (offer a critical opinion with evidence) how successfully a writer has done something e.g. built tension.
- The exam complements the nineteenth century reading that you did as part of the 'horror unit' in the spring term.

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### **Year 9 – Non-fiction reading comprehension**

- The exam lasts 50 minutes and is a test of reading
- In your exam you are given two twentieth century non-fiction pieces of writing. (e.g. articles, reviews, travel writing, speeches, autobiographies etc.)
- You are allowed time to read the texts carefully
- You will be asked several questions on each text.

- Use how many marks each question is worth as a guidance to how long you spend on it. Make sure you keep an eye on the time!
- You are allowed to write on the exam paper – annotate, underline, highlight etc.
- You have to be able to extract information from the texts
- You have to be able to analyse how a writer uses language and structure to achieve particular effects
- You have to be able to evaluate (offer a critical opinion with evidence) how a writer engages their reader
- Knowledge of subject-specific vocabulary helps your answers be precise and succinct
- Your class teacher will prepare you this exam and give you exam techniques

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### **Year 10 exam**

- Your exam will last 55 minutes.
- Mrs Cooke and Mrs Parker's classes will be sitting their Literature Shakespeare Paper on Macbeth. In this you will have an extract question (section A), where you have to analyse language and structure. Section B is an essay on the rest of the play on a linked theme to the extract. Context is assessed in this second section but not language analysis.
- Mr Frost, Miss Reeve and Mr Lambert's classes will sit the Literature exam based on their Post 1914 text (Journey's End, Lord of the Flies or Animal Farm). In the exam you will have a choice of essay questions on character, setting or theme. You choose one question to answer on. Context is assessed in this section but not language analysis.
- Good knowledge of the text is vital for success. We recommend rereading the text before your exam. If you are unsure how to revise for Literature exams you should ask your class teacher for tips and strategies.

*Students sit a minimum of seven hours of mock exams over the 20 month course as part of the GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature courses. The Year 10 school exam forms part of this series and is no more or less important than their other English mock exams.*

*In June students have their Spoken Language presentations. In July students have a further English Language exam on imaginative writing. In September they have a Literature mock exam on unseen poetry.*