

Your summer English exam will be comprised of two sections with multiple questions, will last 80 minutes and will test your reading and writing ability. You will read a passage and answer some questions on it.

## Section A: Fiction Comprehension

**You have been analysing fiction all year, and your exam will be similar to the style of questions you have been doing. Lots of the skills you have picked up when writing about Harry Potter, Greek Myths or New Experiences are useful for this section.**

**You should be able to:**

- Read and understand the passage
- Answer in full sentences
- Comment on how the writer makes the passage interesting
- Use P.E.E. to show that you understand the text, can find the appropriate evidence and explain your choices
- Use a high level vocabulary to explain your answers

**Key components to look out for in a fiction text:**

- Use of the first person 'I'  or the third person he/ she
- Descriptions of people
- Detailed description of place and circumstance   
- Experiences that are unique and informative  OR experiences that feel familiar to the reader 
- Use of direct speech to add to the story 
- Occasional use of humour , exaggeration or other emotive language 

Look at this extract about two friends that are lost in a blizzard:

Lee swallowed the hard lump that had risen in his throat. For an hour or more now he'd known that they were lost, but hearing it put into words brought home the dangerous reality of their situation. They were lost on a mountainside, battling through a blizzard, with night coming on fast. His stomach churned at the thought. In situations like this, people died. Overcome with weariness, they lay down in the snow and froze to death. *But that's not going to happen to us*, he thought fiercely, fighting down his own fear. He and Tom were going to keep battling until they reached safety. They'd never give in.

In your exam you will be asked to find a type of word and provide evidence:

- 1) Give an example of an adverb. (1 mark)

Answer: An example of an adverb is 'fiercely'.

You will be asked to show understanding:

- 2) How do we know that Lee is worried? (2 marks)

Answer: We know that Lee is worried because 'he swallowed the hard lump that had risen in his throat'. This shows he is worried as he is feeling sick and anxious about their situation.

You will be asked for straightforward information:

- 3) In what situation do the boys find themselves ? (1 mark)

Answer: Lee and Tom are 'lost on a mountainside, battling a blizzard.'

You will also be asked to use P.E.E:

- 4) How does the writer show that the boys are in danger? (4 marks)

\* 1 PEE = 2 marks so you need 2 for this answer.\*

Answer: The writer shows that the boys are in danger by stating 'In situations like this, people died.' This shows the reader that they are in a very perilous situation. We also know the boys are in danger because the writer describes the 'dangerous reality of their situation'. This clearly indicates that the boys are in serious trouble in the blizzard.

Although it will be an unseen passage, it will be similar to the reading work you have done all year. Read carefully and work quickly and you will do well!



## Section B – Personal Writing

In this section of the exam, you will be given a title for a piece of personal writing.

### **Personal Writing:**

The title will relate to an experience you have had:

1. Write about a time you had a frightening experience.
2. If only I had listened.
3. How I achieved a goal.

You must then choose a title and write about **your own personal experiences**.

Unlike creative writing, you must write this essay from your own point of view, **using the pronoun “I...”**

Remember the Learning Outcomes for Personal Writing:

1. **Plan carefully** – just like you would do for any other story.
2. Open effectively – **catch the reader’s attention** right at the start with an interesting, funny, or surprising statement that is interesting and relevant to the title.
3. **Always** use paragraphs
4. Describe people and places in a **vivid and realistic** way using a range of expressive adjectives, verbs and adverbs.
5. **Describe using the senses** – things you could see, hear, smell, feel, taste, etc.
6. **Use dialogue** to make the essay interesting and realistic.
7. Use similes, metaphors, personification, onomatopoeia and alliteration to make your writing original and entertaining.
8. Focus on thoughts and feelings – use humour, sadness, etc., when appropriate.
9. Create a clear and **convincing ending**.
10. Check that all of my **Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar** are accurate.