

KS3 English Exams – June 2015

The English exam will assess students' reading and writing skills. Students will be expected to read an unfamiliar text and answer questions to demonstrate their comprehension. They will then be asked to produce a piece of writing. These skills have been developed in lessons and homework since the start of KS3. Students will also have revision lessons before the exam.

The Year 8 exam is 1 hour long.

1. The first part of the exam is a reading comprehension. Students answer short comprehension questions before answering questions that ask them to summarise and explore the effects of language.
2. The second part of the exam is a writing task. Students produce a piece of writing linked to the text they read in the first part of the exam.

Year 8 Revision

What students should revise

- Reading through non-fiction texts to understand the content. For example: newspaper articles, leaflets, cereal packets, websites.
- Explaining what unfamiliar words mean.
- Summarising the key points of a text.
- Selecting quotations to support a point.
- Explaining the effects of different language choices.
- Persuasive devices. For example: rhetorical questions, appealing directly to the audience, lists of three.
- When to use different types of punctuation.
- Linking devices/connectives. For example: however, on the other hand, similarly.
- How to proofread.
- Individual spelling errors, using their yellow book where appropriate.

How students could revise

- Read through their exercise book to remind themselves of the different topics and skills we have covered.
- Revisit their most recent action points and check that they have made progress with them.
- Test themselves: how many different types of punctuation can they use?
- Use BBC Skillswise to practise their punctuation:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english/games>
- Practise sorting out their own list of common spelling errors, using their yellow book if appropriate: look, cover, write, check.
- Read a recent news article; write out the key points as a series of bullet points; then summarise those key points of the article in own words without rewriting the whole piece.