

How do I get a top grade in English?

FOR READING

- Show that you can fully engage with a text by summarising the key points using your own words – ensure you include sufficient detail
- Select quotations from a text and write about the effects of words on an audience
- Consider why the writer is writing and how this is reflected in the words and sentences that they have chosen

Use phrases like:

- This is effective because...
- The writer is trying to...
- An audience can see that...
- The word 'XXXX' suggests that....

FOR WRITING

- Make use of linguistic devices to enrich your work
- Show that you understand tasks and approach them in an interesting and engaging way
- Use a range of sentence structures for effect
- Use ambitious vocabulary and consider its effect on an audience
- Convey shades of meaning through your work – don't be too obvious
- Use punctuation to shape your ideas
- Structure your ideas for effect

How do I get a top grade in English Literature?

You need to:

- select short precise quotations to support your ideas
- comment on the effects of the words chosen by a writer
- use phrases like 'the writer is trying to..' and 'an audience would think..'
- zoom into texts and comment on the effects of specific words

For your drama text you must:

- write about the dramatic moments within an extract and what makes them dramatic
- write about the use of stage directions and the effect on an audience
- recognise how an audience at the time might have viewed the play and how this might be different
- write about how drama is created within a text (eg. lighting, entrances, exits, dramatic irony) and discuss effects on audience
- comment on the reaction of the other characters on stage and what you think the writer was trying to achieve

For Of Mice and Men you must:

- write about the context of the novel (political, economic, social information relevant to the novel) and why this is important

For Of Mice and Men/Lord of the Flies you must:

- explain how the writer uses language to have an impact on the audience and what this impact is
- comment on the writer's intention, his ideas and how the characters represent the themes within the text – identify key messages
- identify how the text is written and what the effect might be on an audience

For poetry you must:

- write about the effects of poetic techniques and how these are created
- write about the use of language for effect (simile, imagery, metaphors, etc) and suggest what effects the poet might have been trying to achieve
- comment on the structure of the poem and why this is important
- discuss the rhyming pattern and the effect it has on an audience
- mention the poet's feelings and ideas