

Literature Revision- Top Tips!

Unit 1- 'Of Mice and Men' + Unseen Poetry- 2 hours
Unit 2- 'Heroes' and 'An Inspector Calls' OR 'Blood Brothers' and 'Lord of the Flies' 2 hours

Exam questions on novels/ plays:

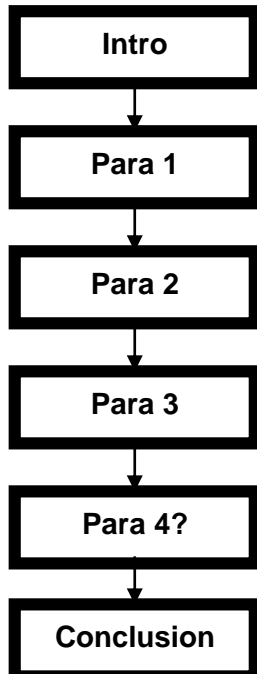
i) **EXTRACT** question

Examiners are looking for **close language analysis** with a focus on **word choice**, reading beyond the lines, and writing **a lot about a little**.

- Read question carefully and highlight key words
- Annotate the extract, highlighting 4/5 short quotes that answer the question (THIS IS YOUR PLAN)
- Write 4/5 paragraphs, each using one of your highlighted quotes
- Comment on the effect of specific words (single word analysis)
- If it's a play, make sure you also comment on stage directions
- Comment on the effect on the reader/ audience

10 marks
20 minutes
one side A4

ii) or iii) **WHOLE TEXT** question- choose one



Essay Question

20 marks
40 minutes
2/3 sides A4

- WRITE A PLAN
- Choose points from beginning, middle and end of the text
- Use some short quotes
- Refer directly to textual detail, without quotes

Empathy Question (write as a character)

- Write in the first person
- Refer directly to details of the text
- Cover all the main events
- Use their viewpoint (only what they know)
- Use the language and attitude of the character
- Cs and above: refer to themes, symbols and structure

NB- avoid the advice to an actor question...it always scores the lowest marks

Examiners are looking for:

- Knowledge of the whole text (don't just focus on the beginning)
 - Sensitive response to text
 - Awareness of structure e.g. cyclical ending, recurring symbols, patterns in the text
 - Stylistic features e.g. imagery and symbolism
- CONTEXT- in 'Of Mice and Men' and 'An Inspector Calls' / 'Lord of the Flies'**

Unseen **Poetry** Comparison

- ❖ Read both poems several times (the story or message often becomes clear at the end)
- ❖ Annotate and highlight both poems
- ❖ Use the bullet points in question as your **PLAN**
- ❖ Use short quotations and comment on word choice
- ❖ Refer to structure (does the poem change at all? Is there a point where the message becomes clear?)
- ❖ Give a personal and sensitive response

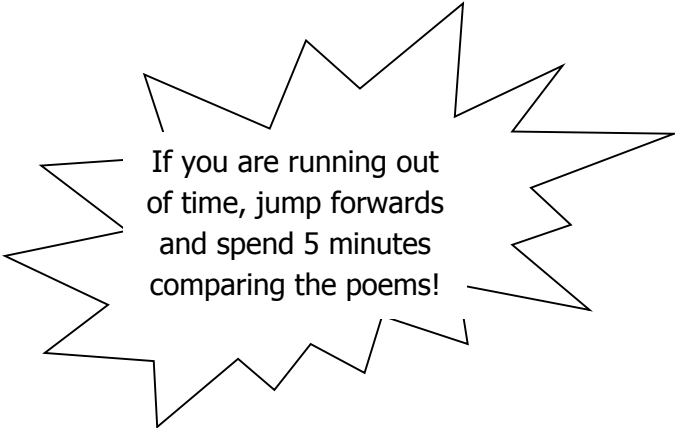
DO NOT MENTION RHYME SCHEMES- THE EXAMINERS HATE IT!

How to start each paragraph:

- CONTENT and IDEAS The poem '...' is about The poet may have wanted us to think about...
- MOOD The mood of this poem is .../ changes from
- HOW IT IS WRITTEN A line that stands out/ my favourite line is ...
- YOUR RESPONSE Overall this poem makes me feel/ think ... because...

Final paragraph:

- Explain **HOW** the poems are similar and different in **CONTENT, MESSAGE and MOOD**
- Choose which has the most impact on you and explain **WHY**



If you are running out of time, jump forwards and spend 5 minutes comparing the poems!

10/15 min- Read both poems

20 min- Write about 1st poem

20 min- Write about 2nd poem

5/10 min- Compare the poems' themes and impact on you