Year 8 Exam

You will be tested on READING and WRITING.

The Reading Section – 45 minutes

* In the reading section you will need to read a short passage.
* You will then be tested on your understanding of the passage.
* All of your answers should be based on the text.
* The first questions are short answer questions.
* The final question is longer and requires you to use PEE.

Things to remember:

QUOTE if you are asked to. Otherwise, use your own words as far as possible.

Always explain what quotes mean AND comment on the effect that words have on a reader.

Your teacher will show you an example reading task and discuss the ways you can answer questions.

The Writing Section – 45 minutes

In the writing section you will be asked to PLAN and WRITE a short piece of DESCRIPTIVE writing.

The writing will be linked in some way to the reading text e.g. if the reading text is set in an old, spooky school your writing task might be ‘Describe a memorable experience you have had a school.’

PLANNING – 15 minutes

* You will be given a planning page. You MUST complete this as it will be taken into consideration by the teacher marking your exam.
* In your plan you should ensure your work is split into clear paragraphs.
* You should consider how to make your opening exciting and grab the reader’s attention.
* You should ensure that you use IMAGERY, varied SENTENCE STRUCTURE and a range of PUNCTUATION.
* Think about PAFF. What is the purpose of the writing? Who is the audience? What is the format? How formal should it be?
* Do not simply list things or retell events focus on the SENSES. What can you see? Hear? Smell? Touch? Taste? How do you FEEL?

WRITING – 30 minutes

* As you will be given a level for your writing, you will be judged on spelling, punctuation and grammar. You should take time at the end to thoroughly PROOF READ your work to correct basic errors.
* Do not rush! One page of beautiful, descriptive and correct writing is much better than five pages of mistakes.

Good luck!

What can I do to study?

What am I being tested on?

* What are you being tested on for reading? Consider all the assessment focuses.
* What are you being tested on for writing? Consider all the assessment focuses.

How can I use my own work to help me study?

* Look at all of your previous assessments.
* What level are you?
* What level do you want to get in this exam? Set a clear target for yourself. Your target should be REALISTIC. Aim for about one or two sub-levels of improvement. E.g. if you are currently a 5c for reading, aim for 5b or 5a.
* How can you get this level? Looking at the different assessment focuses will help you. Look at the next level up on the level grids. Write down notes on the things you need to remember e.g. ‘back up my ideas with an appropriate quote’ or ‘use ambitious vocabulary.’
* Look at the EBIs and WWWs – these can help you lots. Do you frequently make mistakes in the same area? How can you avoid this? TALK TO YOUR TEACHER if you are unsure.
* Practise planning and writing in the time you will have in the exam. Some ideas to practise:

1. Describe a time when you felt afraid.

2. Write a story that starts with a description of the sea.

3. Heaven – what is heaven for you? Describe it.

* READ! Read all the time. The more you read, the better your vocabulary will be and the quicker you will be able to read in exams. READ! READ! READ!
* Talk to your teacher about different reading strategies.