

Fifth Form IGCSE Exam Preparation - Subject: CIE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Details of Exam

One paper - 2hrs

Question One – 15 minutes reading / 40 minutes writing (20 marks – 15 reading / 5 writing)

Question Two – 25 minutes (10 marks - all for reading)

Question Three – 10 minutes reading / 30 minutes writing (20 marks – 15 for reading / 5 for writing)

Skills to revise and practise

Question One

In this question you will have an extract to read and then rewrite into a different format.

Key skills: establishing the voice of the narrator; using synonyms; taking key facts; using the specified form; employing different sentence structures for effect; distinguishing between fact and opinion; and writing for the specified audience.

Focus: adapt.

Question Two

Using the same extract as question one, choose four words or phrases from specified paragraphs to evaluate. Remember to PEE: Point, Evidence, Evaluation. This works in the same way as when you analyse texts for GCSE Literature. You need to consider: impact on the reader; imagery; literal and metaphorical meanings of the words; literary techniques used; how the words have an impact on us as readers; patterning of words and images; and the impact of punctuation.

Focus: analyse.

Question Three

You will be given a shorter non-fiction extract to read; the theme will be similar to the previous piece you read. After reading, you need to identify and write down fifteen key points in the passage. You will be given a question to base your notes on. Next, you need to rewrite your notes into a focused summary of the passage in your own words. **Focus:**

abbreviate.

Location of Past Paper Questions / Model Answers

Past paper questions, mark schemes and examiner feedback can be found at: <http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-first-language-uk-0522/past-papers/> Please note that question three has changed slightly for 2015. Your teacher will give you further examples.

Revision Tasks to be completed

You all have a copy of the IGCSE Learner Guide <http://www.cie.org.uk/images/163028-cambridge-learner-guide-for-igcse-first-language-english.pdf> Ask your teacher if you need another. We do **Paper 2 (Extended) and coursework**; do not worry about the other exam options.

Read as much non-fiction and fiction as you can.

Practise writing in these forms: formal report, letter, journal, speech, news report, magazine article and interview.

Question One - Adapt

Take a two page extract from a novel and rewrite it in one of the forms above.

Question Two - Analyse

Select key phrases from a piece of writing and evaluate the impact on the reader.

Question Three - Abbreviate

Take a magazine or newspaper article, identify the main points and summarise in your own words.

Details of any additional revision resources

Read examples of non-fiction writers and notice both the ideas explored, the structure and development of ideas, and the crafted semantics and syntax used:

http://tetw.org/all_authors - <http://will-self.com/> - <http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/> -

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree> - <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwxZlxbt_BU A useful brief tutorial

Subject specific revision advice

- Make a careful note of exam timings for each section; practise reading and making notes under the conditions that you will have in the exam.
- Ensure that you know whether you are being tested for reading or writing in each question.
- Writing well (using a wide, complex vocabulary, varied syntax for effect, and sophisticated ideas) and accurately (spelling, punctuation, grammar, and paragraphing) has a huge impact on your grade: the more often you write the better it will get. Work on learning a wide range of vocabulary, synonyms and terminology to use correctly and to add variety to your writing.