



Year 8 English Examination



The English end of year exam will be divided into 2 sections:

Section A: Reading Assessment

You will be given an extract from the short story 'The Signalman' by Charles Dickens. You will be asked to write an essay using PETAL or PEA paragraphs, explaining how the writer has achieved certain effects. In this section, you should answer the question by writing an introduction and several paragraphs with quotations and analysis. (45 mins)

Section B: Writing Assessment

You will be asked to write a descriptive or narrative piece of original writing based on a writing prompt. You will be marked on your writing skills including your descriptive detail, vocabulary, use of language techniques, use of a variety of sentence structures, and your spelling, punctuation and grammar. (45 mins)

The following is a list of suggested revision activities:

Year 8 Trial Exam Revision Activities

	Revision Activity	Resource to help with revision	Revised? ☒
Reading Assessment	1. Re-read 'The Signalman' by Charles Dickens	Copies of the short story are available online, as well as revision websites and videos	
	2. You will need to identify language techniques that you see in the extract, such as simile, metaphor, alliteration, pathetic fallacy, onomatopoeia, repetition and foreshadowing.	Knowledge organisers and vocabulary in exercise books.	
	3. Look back at your past reading assessments and read through the comments and targets from your teacher. Write a PETAL paragraph on 'The Signalman' using the feedback from your teacher.	Past reading assessments in exercise books	
	4. 'The Signalman' is a Gothic short story. Research and make a list of the features of Gothic literature.	Exercise books, the 'Gothic Literature' lessons on the Oak Academy website	
Writing Assessment	5. Make sure you are able to use the full range of punctuation, including punctuating speech and using colons and semi-colons	Use the 'Grammar for Writing' lessons and quizzes on the Oak Academy website	
	6. Read the descriptive and narrative writing guides on the BBC Bitesize website for tips on how to develop your writing skills	BBC Bitesize in the KS3 Fiction Writing section www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics	
	7. Choose a picture and write a description inspired by the image, or practise writing the opening to a short story.	Use the mark scheme in the back of your book to self-assess your work	
	8. Vocabulary range is important. Look through your exercise book(s) at the selection of vocabulary you are continually developing – create a list of synonyms and antonyms of key words selected to build variation.	Exercise books, knowledge organisers, dictionaries and online thesauruses	