



## CE Exam Crib sheet



Paper One: Prose analysis + persuasive writing [1hr 15mins]  
Paper Two: Poetry analysis + descriptive writing [1 hr 15 mins]

### Prose analysis: Top tips [Paper one – Section A]

#### Terminology to learn:

##### Language features:

- Descriptive writing features including figurative language (SOAPMAPS)
- Word classes: noun, adjective, verb, adverb, pronoun etc.
- Sentence forms: minor, simple, compound, complex and sentence fragments

##### Verb for analysis:

- For points (things the writer does):  
*presents/portrays/depicts/indicates/creates the impression that*
- For explaining inferences:  
*suggests/implies/reveals/illustrates*
- For extending analysis:  
*Reinforces/creates imagery of/emphasises/highlights/amplifies*

##### Useful phrases:

*The writer uses...in order to...*

*The writer/author creates the impression that...*

*The writer portrays the character/setting as...*

*This illustrates/exemplified in the quotation...*

*The [quotation/word] conjures imagery of.../has connotations of...*

*The reader may feel...because...*

##### Top exam tips:

- Read the paper through carefully (both the extract and the questions)
- Circle the key words in the question to help ensure your answer is relevant
- Decide how much detail to go into, depending on the amount of marks available.

### Persuasive Writing: Top Tips [Paper One – Section B]

#### Terminology to learn:

- D**irect address: appeal to your listener/reader directly
- A**lliteration: use words which begin with the same letter to make your phrases more memorable
- F**acts: statements which are reliably true
- F**lattery: compliment your listener/reader to make them like you and therefore listen to you!
- O**pinions: explain your beliefs and opinions
- R**epetition: repeat key phrases to make them memorable (you could have a slogan or motto running through your speech)
- R**hetorical questions: ask questions for dramatic effect and to make your listener reflect on the issue at hand
- E**motive language: use specific words and ideas to make your reader feel pity/outrage/admiration
- E**xaggeration: make your speech interesting by using hyperbolic phrases (I've told you *a million* times!)
- S**tatistics: Make your point of view believable by including (made up) statistics conducted by impressive universities!
- T**riplets: To make your writing punchy, persuasive and precise!

#### Structure your work

Use ASCARF

1. **A**n inventive opening: Envisage this/Imagine a world where....
2. **S**tate your argument: make your point of view clear
3. **C**ounter argument: *Some foolish people may say...what they have failed to consider is...*
4. **A**ncedote: include a personal story which is emotive (and difficult to disagree with!)
5. **R**easons: include any further ideas and reasons
6. **F**inal plea: finish with an emotive plea to your listener.

### HPL In English

- We **analyse** texts: we make inferences (read between the lines) to consider the implications of the language used
- We make **links** (we make links between the language used by the author and the effect it creates; we find patterns within poems; we link when we use vocabulary from the extracts that we read in our own creative writing)
- We are **creative**: we use our imaginations and our **empathy** to create speeches and descriptions.

## Poetry analysis: Top Tips [Paper two – Section A]

### Terminology to learn

1. Stanza: a verse or paragraph in a poem
2. Rhyming couplet: two lines that rhyme
3. Rhyme scheme: the pattern of rhyming that a poem follows
4. Enjambment: run-on lines (without punctuation)
5. End-stopped lines: a line of poetry with punctuation at the end (the opposite of enjambment – it usually compels the reader to pause and reflect)
6. Free/blank verse: a poem with no set rhyme scheme
7. Tone: the mood of the poem, or the attitude expressed by the speaker in the poem
8. Speaker: the persona in the poem (if the poem is written in 1<sup>st</sup> person – remember this is not always the voice of the poet)
9. Rhythm: the beat and pace of the poem

### Questions to ask yourself when first reading an unseen poem:

1. What do I notice about the title?
2. What do I notice about the poem's layout?
3. Can I see any patterns in the poem?
4. Are there any obviously important words?
5. What do I notice about the beginning and ending?
6. Who is speaking in the poem? In what tone?
7. What might be the message of the poem?
8. What is your personal response to the poem, why?

### Top exam tips:

1. Read the poem through twice before answering the questions
2. Remember not just to identify poetic features, but also to think about why the poet has used them: what does s/he want the reader to think about or reflect on?

## Descriptive Writing: Top Tips [Paper Two – Section B]

### Terminology to learn and use

#### Language features

- Figurative language: similes/metaphors and personification
- Sensory language: include details about sounds, sights, textures, smells and tastes
- Pathetic fallacy: describe the weather to reflect the mood of the scene and establish the atmosphere

#### Structural features

- Withheld information: slow the pace of your description and only reveal key details (such as the identity of your narrator) once you have built up suspense
- Foreshadowing: include hints and clues to later events
- Isolated sentences: emphasise dramatic moments in your writing by including single sentence paragraphs
- Contrast: include a deliberate change in tone to increase suspense

### Planning decisions to make before writing:

1. **Perspective:** whose point of view will you be writing from? (First person "I": and if so, who? A young girl? A bird observing the scene from above? An ancient tree which has witnessed centuries of turmoil?)
2. **Purpose:** What is your overall purpose? To create suspense surrounding the whereabouts of a missing pet? To include gothic details? To create sympathy for a lonely old woman?
3. **Structure:** Carefully plan your response – plan the beginning/middle and ending and remember: you do not have time for an entire story. Think of your piece as a photograph (a moment in time) rather than the whole film.

### General tips:

1. Read as much and as widely as possible: the more different types of texts you read, the more comfortable you will feel reading the unseen extracts in the exam. How many of these types of texts have you read lately?

### Fiction genres:

Action and adventure  
Historical fiction  
Horror/gothic fiction  
Science Fiction  
Dystopian Fiction

### Non-Fiction:

Biographies and autobiographies  
Travel stories  
Historical accounts  
Fact books

2. Check your accuracy: read your work back to yourself as you go. For section B (writing tasks) use a range of punctuation and sentence types.
3. Remember to check your work carefully, be aware of your personal targets and to try your best!

