

**Westbourne House School**  
**Year 7 Spring Exam Crib sheet**

The exam will consist of:

- Section A: prose comprehension
  - Section B: composition
    - 1 hr 15 mins

Section	What to revise																											
<b>A</b> <b>Prose</b> <b>comprehension</b>  Prose: an extract from a fiction or non-fiction text  Fiction: a novel or short story. Genres: gothic, mystery, fantasy, crime (detective), dystopian, historical fiction  Non-fiction: travel writing, a speech, a letter, a newspaper article or blog post	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read the text carefully – at least twice.</li><li>• You are a detective – the clues are hidden in the text.</li><li>• Look at the marks available – a 4 mark question needs a considerably longer response than a 1 mark question.</li><li>• Read all the questions before you begin – this will help you know which parts of the text to use for which answers so you don’t repeat yourself.</li><li>• Leave a line or two after each answer. When you check your work at the end you can always add/edit your answer to strengthen it.</li><li>• Your answers must always refer directly to the text. This may sound obvious but many people lose marks because their answers are too vague. E.g: ‘I liked the story because it was very exciting and you didn’t know what was going to happen next. There was a lot going on and it built a really strong picture in my head.’ You could have written this without even reading the text! Be precise: I enjoyed the text because of the magic in it. It was frightening when the fisherman’s hand was burned and the writer built suspense surrounding whether or not he would survive.’</li><li>• If asked why you think a character behaves in a certain way, look carefully at the text: the answer is in there (it is not up to you to make up a scenario or reason). A character’s behaviour is usually demonstrated through their actions and dialogue.</li><li>• Careful checking is vital.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Does my answer make sense?</li><li>✓ Does it answer the question I was asked?</li><li>✓ Have I written enough?</li><li>✓ Are my answers spelled and punctuated correctly?</li></ul></li></ul> <b>Subject terminology to learn</b> <table><tr><th>Word types</th><th>Language features</th><th>Structural features</th></tr><tr><td>Noun</td><td>Simile</td><td>Withheld information</td></tr><tr><td>Adjective</td><td>Metaphor</td><td>Sentence forms: minor, simple, compound and complex</td></tr><tr><td>Verb</td><td>Personification</td><td>Isolated sentences</td></tr><tr><td>Adverb</td><td>Alliteration</td><td>Tension</td></tr><tr><td>Pronoun</td><td>Onomatopoeia</td><td>Suspense</td></tr><tr><td>Collective pronoun</td><td>Repetition</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Possessive pronoun</td><td>Imagery</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Conjunctive</td><td>Pathetic fallacy</td><td></td></tr></table>	Word types	Language features	Structural features	Noun	Simile	Withheld information	Adjective	Metaphor	Sentence forms: minor, simple, compound and complex	Verb	Personification	Isolated sentences	Adverb	Alliteration	Tension	Pronoun	Onomatopoeia	Suspense	Collective pronoun	Repetition		Possessive pronoun	Imagery		Conjunctive	Pathetic fallacy	
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	<p>Determiner</p> <p>Superlative adjective</p> <p>Compound adjective</p>	<p>DAFORREST features for non-fiction texts</p>	<p>Perspective: first person, third person</p> <p>Cliffhanger</p>	
<p>Section B</p> <p>Composition</p> <p>Tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A narrative piece (story)</li> <li>○ A descriptive piece</li> <li>○ A report on a journey, event or person</li> <li>○ A persuasive speech</li> <li>○ A letter discussing an issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Your motto should be 'show off'. You want to dazzle them with your use of language. You want to show them that you know a wide range of colourful and interesting words and you know what paragraphing and punctuation can do.</li> <li>• Choose your title carefully – you have to show off your strengths – sometimes the one that sounds the easiest is the most difficult. For example, if you choose a letter you still need to ensure it is detailed, with ambitious vocabulary and inventive techniques.</li> <li>• Openings and endings are important – this is your examiner's first impression (your opening) and lasting impression (your ending): make an impact.</li> <li>• Watch timing carefully. You should be able to complete your story and check it in the time allowed. Equally, you should use ALL the time available to you – you can always make your story better! Check, edit, edit, check, edit, check, edit!</li> </ul> <p>Style – make sure that you make the most of the language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use colourful adjectives and adverbs (not nice, big etc.)</li> <li>• Use powerful verbs (not walked, said etc.)</li> <li>• Vary your sentence structure</li> <li>• Use language features to create imagery</li> <li>• Use sensory language to add detail</li> <li>• Use conjunctives/ connectives to join simple sentences together and make them more interesting.</li> </ul> <p>Structure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You must organise your ideas into paragraphs – use TipTop (time/tone/person/topic/place) to remind you when to change paragraph.</li> <li>• Remember semi-colons are used to join two short, related sentences (but they must be independent sentences that can exist by themselves) and colons are used to expand upon an idea or provide a clarification (what comes after a colon does not have to be a full sentence).</li> </ul> <p>Revision titles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write a description of an alien land that no-one else has encountered.</li> <li>• Write a story entitled 'A huge shock!'</li> <li>• Write a letter to your headteacher persuading him to allow year 7 to have their own common room.</li> <li>• Should kindles be used in school? Write a speech arguing for or against this issue.</li> </ul>			

For any further information or guidance about revision or the actual exam, please contact your English teacher or the Head of English – Ms Alice Fisher  
([afisher@westbournehouse.org](mailto:afisher@westbournehouse.org))