

How to Approach GCSE Literature

**PRETTY
QUEENS
EAT
APPLES
WITH
PEAS**



Point: what can you say about the character/s or idea presented? DON'T TELL THE STORY/SUM UP CONTENT: think about what's implied or what they are used to suggest.

Quote: use a short quote/s to prove your point

Explain: explain how the quote proves your point

Analyse: zoom in on key words and comment on the techniques the writer has used to show this.

Writer's Purpose: what do you think the writer was trying to do here? What effect do you think they wanted it to have on the reader? *Connect to what was happening at the time/the writer's life, if appropriate*

Personal Opinion: how does this affect you? How does it make you feel about the character, idea or about reading on? Why? *Connect to relevance now if appropriate. How does what's happening NOW make you feel about the text, IF IT INCREASES THE EFFECT ON YOU?*

Good Literature Answers Will:

Read the question carefully and box the key words. Annotate any printed text, including HOW

Plan your answer so you can build an argument

Lead every point with WHAT IS IMPLIED, rather than summing up the text

Make the most of every quote used. Use technical terms to describe writer's choices, but connect these to specific effects

Write about BOTH the extract and the text as a whole, where an extract is given.

Comment on how the text as a whole builds, shifts and changes, in order

Top answers will make a wide range of points, confidently ranging around the text to make more perceptive points about how effects on the reader are created.

Macbeth (1 hour) 20%

Extract (20 mins): beginning, middle and end. Consider how builds, shifts and changes. ONLY the extract. CLOSE analysis.

Whole text (40mins): bigger picture, how text works as a whole to affect the reader

Extract based questions: AIC/WIB (45 mins) 20% , ACC/J&H (45 mins) 20%

Use both extract and text. Show off close analysis with the extract and understanding of bigger picture with the whole text. Aim for three points about extract and three about whole text. CONTEXT IN ACC/J&H.

Poetry: Unseen Poetry (1 hour) 20%, Anthology (1 hour) 20%

Use the theme identified in the question. 20 mins on poem 1 and 40 comparing with the second poem. Make sure you consider the beginning, middle and end of each poem. You need to be technical in your analysis but make sure you explain what is implied by the technique, connecting it to the WORDS used. Consider the effect of sound and layout.

Analyse Language e.g. words, adjective, adverb, imagery, metaphor, simile, imperative, symbolism, **Form and structure e.g.** repetition, contrast, symbolism, how ideas are build up, change, lists, effect of opening/ending, choice of contrasting characters, how much characters speak, what we are told before we see them , tone, stanza length and shape, sound (rhyme, rhythm, assonance, sibilance), prose, poetry, line length, soliloquy