

English Literature – Pre A Level essay questions/guidance:

TASKS TO COMPLETE:

Task 1 – read through each question and identify the key words – what is the question focusing on?

Task 2 – rank each question in terms of your preference.

Task 3 – consider how each of the two texts you have read in preparation for this essay, either refutes (goes against), or supports the viewpoint presented. This will help you decide ‘to what extent you agree’.

Task 4 – create a plan of your ideas for ONE of the three questions – the one you think has the most potential/the one you can write about most confidently.

Your plan can be a series of bullet points or a mind map – plan for three points. One point per text roughly, with at least 2-3 supporting quotes. You can also bring in knowledge of any other text you have read, EXCLUDING GCSE set texts. The Lottery and Porphyria’s Lover **MUST** be discussed and analysed in the main body of the essay.

Task 5 – begin to write an introduction and your main body of the text, finish with a conclusion. This essay **MUST** be a **maximum of 900 words** (typed) or 2 and half sides of A4 paper, hand written. For help with constructing your essay, see page 2 of this document.

Possible essay questions: PICK ONE

Q1: *Throughout history, literature has shown people to suffer at the hands of men. To what extent do you agree?*

Q2: *The power of literature lies in its purpose to expose the unjust control and manipulation of people/society. To what extent do you agree?*

Q3: *The more shocking the text, the more compelling literature is as it challenges the reader and invites them to evaluate their perception of events, actions and behaviour. To what extent do you agree?*

INTRODUCTION:

Do the texts mainly support the statement of the question, or refute it? What main points are you going to explore? Aim to outline them. Your intro should be no more than 80-100 words.

TIP 1: include words from the statement (see yellow highlighting) and outline your MAIN views about HOW the writers present that theme. Also, aim to include evaluative words that suggest how far you agree (see below underlined).

Whilst literature is often shocking and disturbing, causing the reader to question their views, the shock factor sometimes simply serves as a form of entertainment and nothing more. All three texts..

MAIN BODY:

TIP 1: Begin with a clear topic sentence – WHAT is your point about the first text you plan to discuss? HOW does it link to the question/statement? You MUST include words from the statement to demonstrate a focused response.

TIP 2: Aim to embed quotations into your writing to ensure sophistication of expression and fluency.

TIP 3: When 'explaining' your quotation, aim to explore and analyse language and/or structural features. HOW does the writer use language to help cement their point? Or show the reader something about a character? WHY is the character saying that or behaving in that way?

TIP 4: Aim to consider the writer's purpose/intention. WHAT are they trying to communicate about humanity? Society? The human condition? Gender? Love? Family? The period in which they're writing? WHY is this text interesting and engaging?

POINT:

Robert Browning demonstrates the dangers of masculine control through his depiction of...

EVIDENCE:

" _____ "

EXPLANATION:

Here, the use of the _____ ' _____ ' emphasises/has connotations of...

FURTHERMORE/HOWEVER [development]:

Furthermore/however, it is interesting to note..... The change in this character / signals a juxtaposition between.... / contrasts.../ develops (include a 2nd quote as evidence) " _____ "

PURPOSE:

Browning makes the reader consider the importance of ... because... and therefore... [Writer's intention]

CONCLUSION:

Here you will simply summarise your main views and reinforce your position to 'what extent you agreed'. You should also aim to reflect on the writers' intentions here, are they all trying to present a message about the same thing/society/humanity? Or is it different?