

Provincial Exam Preparation
English 12

Aspects of the exam that markers note:

Handwriting

- Neatness and readability are crucial.
- Check your own handwriting. Are there letters that are difficult to decipher? Are there letters that you have smushed together over the years and no one understands this but yourself?
- Make sure that capitalize proper nouns and beginnings of sentences, and leave all else lower case.
- Write the right amount for the question. Short papers are given failing marks far more frequently than longer papers.

Spelling and mechanics

- There are certain words that you never never never spell wrong on the English 12 final exam: there, they're, their, its, it's, definitely, whose, who's, woman, women, college, university,
- Add enlightening or exciting adjectives in front of your boring and mundane nouns.

Use of the booklet

- Write each answer in the appropriately labeled spot.
- Do NOT double space each line: you will run out of room, or you *should* run out of room.
- Indent each new paragraph or skip a line in between each new paragraph or both.

Specific areas of the exam and how to approach them:

There are 60 marks in total for the writing portions on this exam.

Poetry

- Literary analysis of a poem, so you are being asked to show HOW or WHAT of that poem. A retelling only will earn a failing mark.
- Be ready to discuss theme, speaker's attitude, tone, or elements of poetry such as extended metaphor or imagery used.

Prose (short story)

- Literary analysis of the short story, so you are being asked to show HOW or WHAT of the story. A retelling only will earn a failing mark.
- Each paragraph should have the following: claim, then support for that claim, and then a comment on the claim. Ie. Jane as a character is unreliable (**claim**). The narrator tells the reader that she would listen to the conversation but her "mind would drift" and she would often "not follow exactly what went on" (**support**). These bold signposts that the author inserted for the reader make it clear that Jane's observations are not to be taken at face value but rather should be seen as only partial truth needing substantiation (**comment**)
- Be ready to write about character, theme, point of view, irony, conflict, or symbolism.

Original Composition

- Tell a story if you've got one. Make it fit with the topic clearly.
- Avoid putting your reader into the story through second person narration. "You've got to fart, and you know that if you sneak it out everyone will blame you." Remember who your readers are!
- Have a moral to your story that is somehow uplifting; don't make the reader say, "What an idiot; he set fire to the school." or "Any kid that talks about slashing teachers' tires will not get a pass from me."

General Literary Analysis Tips

- Do not write out the title and the author; waste of space
- Mention author when needed by last name only or as narrator
- Do not cite paragraph numbers, line numbers, pages; remember that the markers have the poem and the prose in front of them at all times and they've seen the quotes that you're using many times.
- Introductory paragraph of EACH piece of writing is ULTRA important. Take care to make it perfect.
- Do not title your poetry paragraph or your prose essay; just start right in.
- You may title your original composition, but it will not earn you extra marks or lose any marks. Use a title only if it is clever or telling.