**Year 8 Revision Guide (2025)**

**You will be assessed in two parts for your end-of-year exam:**

1. **Response to an unseen poem (in class, week c/o 12th May);**
2. **Article written on a theme / task given in the exam.**

**UNSEEN POEM:**

***This poem will be taken from the Victorian era and be one that aims to inspire the reader. A couple of suggestions which may help to prepare and may be examined in class include ‘Excelsior’ by Henry Longfellow and ‘Will’ by Ella Wheeler Wilcox.***

**Unseen poem guidance (sat over two lessons)**

1) Read the question and highlight the key words to direct your focus.

Read through the poem carefully a couple of times and establish the themes of the poem. Your teacher may give you some additional guidance as a class at this stage, but this will be limited to agreed parameters – they won’t be allowed to answer specific questions about the meaning of the poem.

2) Spend around **10-15 minutes** highlighting particular phrases and aspects of interest about the poem. Check back to the question to keep yourself on track.

3) Spend **around 35-45 minutes** writing your essay. Try to ensure that you cover all the main parts of the writer’s craft. **LIST** (**L**anguage, **I**deas/**I**magery, **S**tructure, **T**one) is a useful way to remind yourself to do this.

4) Give your personal response to the poem in the conclusion. Spend the last couple of minutes checking through your work for any small errors.

**P.T.O for guidance on the article in Exam Week.**

**ARTICLE DURING EXAM WEEK:**

Your exam week task will be in the form of one extended writing task:   
a **60 minute reflective / personal writing task based on our recent topics around the theme of role models.**

**Historic ole models such as Malala Yousafazi, Christy Brown, Anne Frank and others may be discussed in class as part of the preparation.**

You will be assessed on the following core skills:

* Your ability to be imaginative, interesting and thoughtful;
* Your ability to write for different purposes and audiences;
* Your ability to select and use a range of vocabulary, making choices according to purpose and audience;
* Your ability to use topic sentences and linking phrses to guide your reader through the text;
* Your ability to plan you writing and produce texts that sequence ideas, information and events within an appropriate structure.

You will also be assessed on your Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG):

* Your ability to use different types of sentences, simple, compound and complex, according to purpose and to create specific effects;
* Your ability to use different types of punctuation to make meaning clear to my reader;
* Your ability to spell accurately according to your ability level.

**How will I be assessed:** This task will assess your ability to **‘craft’** your writing so that it has dramatic impact on your reader.

**You should attempt to:**

* Use varied sentence lengths
* Use imaginative vocabulary – be daring and bold!
* Be descriptive – use imagery, personification, alliteration etc.
* Use rhetoric (questions, hyperboles etc.) to persuade your reader
* Raise questions in the mind of the reader and make them think.

**Top tip:** Think about the PAF – Purpose, Audience and Form. Are you sticking to what the brief is asking of you? Remember to proofread!

Finally, if you are still feeling nervous or unsure about any aspect of this exam, please speak to your English teacher! We are here to help you. Good luck!