

Year 8 Mid-year Assessments Revision Guide (Reading and Writing)

Reading Assessment (45 minutes)

The Reading assessment will be about the text you've been reading in class. This will be one of the following texts from the genre of Dystopian fiction:

Animal Farm
The Hunger Games

In this assessment you will complete a single question worth **36 marks**.
The test will last **45 minutes** in total.

On the assessment paper, you will be given **one** of the **four extracts** we've studied in class, at random. All four potential extracts will be in your book, on printouts or available on Teams, but you won't know which one will be featured in the assessment until you take the test itself. Make sure you know all four extracts well.

The question will be about either: one of three main characters in the text or one of three big themes in the text. You will have been informed about all six potential questions before the exam by your teacher. The question you will answer be in this format:

How is the character of [character name] presented in [the text you've studied]?

OR

How are ideas about [big theme] presented in [the text you've studied]?

How to Revise:

- Reread your class text, if you have a copy
- Reread the four extracts (in your book/on Teams) carefully, adding more notes/annotation
- Revise your understanding of Language and Structure features/writing techniques
- Reread any work completed in your book, especially on writing essays
- Write a practice question in 45 minutes using the six potential practice questions and the extracts
- Reread your Knowledge Builder and test yourself
- Use Bedrock to improve your English skills (www.bedrocklearning.org) and BBC Bitesize English KS3

Writing Assessment (45 minutes)

In this assessment you will complete a single task worth **36 marks**.
The test will last **45 minutes** in total.

For the Writing assessment, you will need to write a **short story** in response to a prompt (see examples below). The story can be entirely invented or based on your own/real-life experiences. Your story should be complete with a balanced beginning, middle and end. You will gain marks for creativity, organisation and SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar).

How to Revise:

- Reread your previous short stories carefully and think about what works well/EBI
- Practise writing short story plans, creating quick but effective plans that outline the beginning, middle and end
- Write a new practice story in 45 minutes using one of the prompts below
- Check your new story for SPaG and make edits/corrections
- Share your story with an adult/friend to check it reads well
- Read other short stories from the LRC or outline to improve your understanding of the form

Example prompts to practise:

Write about a time when someone helped someone

Write a story about a day when something went wrong

Write about a time when you decided to stand up for something

Write about a time when someone discovered a secret

Write about a time when time was running out