

Advice for English (Higher Paper) exam only students

If you feel confident enough with your written English and Comprehension you may choose to take the exam without completing the home study course.

The exam has been created to cover reading, writing and comprehension skills. You are expected to understand and write about a number of different topics.

Please consider the following when you get to the exam:

- Please check that your spelling and grammar are correct and that you are confident with everything you write in the exam.
- Take note how many marks each question is worth and make sure you write enough to get the maximum amount of marks (at least one mark per sentence).
- You can use quotations from the passage if you feel it illustrates your point well but make sure you write in your own words, you get marks for interpreting not copying.
- Use a variety of structural features, e.g. different paragraph lengths, indented sections, dialogue, as appropriate.
- Write in a way which shows clarity of thought and communicates in a convincing way.
- Engage the reader with detailed, well considered comments, employ facts and figures etc.
- Please ensure you answer all questions as students often lose crucial marks by missing questions.
- Take your time to read and understand all passages and plan your answers.

Advice for Home Study if English is your second language

We welcome onto the English Home Study the many students that have English as their second language. However, please note that the English Home Study course is primarily designed to help students practice the skills they will need to pass the exam. The exam is equivalent to a GCSE in English in terms of level and therefore you will need a good level of written English before starting the course. Primarily this means a good grasp of English grammar but also includes spelling. On the Home Study course, any errors you make in grammar and spelling will be corrected and sent back to you so that you can see where you are making mistakes. You will also get feedback on how to improve your written technique in order to pass the exam and how to write in timed conditions. You will need to demonstrate your written ability in timed conditions without the use of a dictionary to pass the exam.

If you know that your written English ability is a little low we recommend that you attend a taught written English course at a college near you before starting the Home Study.