



Year 8 – **ENGLISH READING SKILLS** Formal Assessment

Revision Guidance

Circulation	Year 8 Student
Title	Year 8 Formal Assessment
Purpose	To provide revision information for Formal Assessment

You will sit two papers. One paper will assess your reading skills and the other your writing skills.

Reading Skills:

For your Reading Skills assessment, you will be assessed on your knowledge of *Julius Caesar* [studied in Year 7], *Macbeth* and *Conflict Poetry*.

You must be able to discuss the effects of conflict across all three texts.

You must revise the following topics:

Julius Caesar

- Key plot moments linked to political conflict (e.g., the crown scene, the assassination, the fallout).
- Character motivations: Brutus, Cassius, Caesar, Antony.
- How Shakespeare presents:
 - public vs private conflict
 - loyalty, betrayal, ambition
 - the behaviour of the crowd

Conflict Poetry

Revise the three poems

Poem	What to focus on
Dulce et Decorum Est	Physical suffering, gas attack imagery, anti-war message
Mental Cases	Psychological trauma, guilt, memory, graphic imagery
The Next War	Personification of Death, soldiers' attitudes, irony, fatalism

You should know:

- The central message of each poem
- 3–5 key images or quotations
- How the poet presents the effects of conflict (physical, emotional, psychological)

Macbeth

You should revise:

- Macbeth's internal conflict (ambition, guilt, paranoia)
- Lady Macbeth's conflict (power, guilt, mental collapse)
- External conflict (battles, rebellion, tyranny)
- Key scenes: Act 1 Scene 7, Act 2 Scene 2, Act 3 Scene 4, Act 5

Skills you must practice

1. Comprehension Skills

You must be able to:

- Identify what a question is asking
- Pick out relevant evidence
- Summarise ideas clearly
- Explain what an image or detail *shows*

2. Inference Skills

You must be able to:

- Read between the lines
- Explain *why* a character behaves a certain way
- Use evidence to support your ideas
- Use phrases like:
 - “This suggests...”
 - “This implies...”
 - “The writer may be showing...”

3. Comparison Skills (15-mark question)

You must be able to:

- Compare **Macbeth** with **one poem**
- Compare the **effects of conflict**
- Compare **methods** (language, structure, form)
- Use comparative connectives:
 - “Similarly...”
 - “In contrast...”
 - “Both writers show...”
 - “However...”

The exam will be **50 MINUTES LONG**.



Year 8 – **ENGLISH WRITING SKILLS** Formal Assessment Revision Guidance

Circulation	Year 8 Student
Title	Year 8 Formal Assessment
Purpose	To provide revision information for Formal Assessment

You will sit two papers. One paper will assess your reading skills and the other your writing skills.

Writing Skills:

In your writing exam, you will be asked to produce one piece of extended writing. This could be:

- An article
- A letter
- A speech

You should aim for 4–5 well-developed paragraphs, using ambitious vocabulary, varied sentences, and accurate spelling and punctuation.

Structure: Aim for 4–5 Clear Paragraphs

A strong structure helps your ideas flow. Use this as a guide:

Paragraph 1 – Introduction

- Hook your reader or audience
- Introduce your viewpoint clearly
- Set the tone

Paragraphs 2–4 – Main Ideas

Each paragraph should:

- Focus on one clear idea
- Include examples, reasons, or evidence
- Use ambitious vocabulary
- Use varied sentence structures

Paragraph 5 – Conclusion

- Summarise your viewpoint
- End with impact (a call to action, a memorable line, or a final thought)

Tips for the different Forms

Articles

- Use a clear headline
- Write in a lively, engaging style
- Address the reader directly

Letters

- Use the correct layout (date, greeting, sign-off)
- Maintain a polite but firm tone
- Use paragraphs to organise your argument

Speeches

- Use rhetorical devices (repetition, triads, direct address)
- Imagine speaking aloud—use rhythm and emphasis
- End with a powerful final line

The exam will be **45 MINUTES LONG.**