

ENGLISH EXAM GUIDE**ENGLISH**

8. Fantasy heroes/heroines make good role models for the young. **Write your views.**

OR

9. Write about a time when you felt that your actions were heroic. Remember to include your **thoughts and feelings.**

OR

10. Violence on the screen encourages violence in real life. **Discuss.**

OR

11. **Write a short story** using the title: *The Warrior.*

Let us think about the different kinds of writing for a moment. Some topics ask you to **write your views.** With this kind of topic you need to be opinionated and have something to say on the subject. Only choose this kind of topic if you have some knowledge about the subject. If all you think is: "I hate fantasy heroes!" then your essay could be a bit thin. If, on the other hand, you are thinking "there are many role models for young people and fantasy heroes are part of a greater tendency to create heroes to look up to and have been since Ancient Greece" then you could be on to something.

Plan your essay. Think of five main points that you would like to make on your subject and put them in order of importance on the paper or in your head, and tackle those points in order of importance as you work through your essay. You need an opening which tells the reader what you are going to talk about: "Heroes are an important aspect of our society ..." and you need a conclusion which sums up what you have said, for example, "In conclusion it can be seen that heroes are important to everyone..." Always read over the essay before finishing. I have marked so many essays that are spoilt by careless mistakes. Take time to fix

If you like The Lord Of The Rings, these questions might be right up your street.

This brings us to an important tip for the writing paper. Make up your mind before the exam what kind of writing you think you are good at. You can save a lot of time and achieve good results if you look and prepare for a particular type of writing. If you are good at writing stories then you should look for the **bold** writing on the question which says **short story.**

Having decided this, you can also spend some time reading short stories before the exam and practise writing them within the time given in the exam. Always read the bold type so that you get the type of writing correct. You must not write a short story if the question asks you to **discuss** or **give your views.**

STANDARD GRADE

THERE is something quite comforting in the thought that the Standard Grade folio is out of the way and all that is left is the exam itself. All you have to do is to sit two reading papers and a writing exam and Standard Grade English is over and done with. The hard part is to remain focused on the skills and needs of the exam when there is nothing but past papers to do between now and Wednesday May 5.

There are lots of things you can do to get ready and improve your performance. Practise is the key to success.

Writing – 1 hour 15 minutes

The first paper is the writing paper. All pupils sit the same paper: Foundation, General and Credit. The format is simple and your teacher will have shown you lots of examples of the photo on one side of the page and the writing topics on the other side. You will have seen pictures like the one above from last year's writing paper.

One tip is to find a picture that appeals to you by quickly flicking through the writing paper. There is a good chance that the picture you are attracted to will have topics that appeal to you on the other side. Last year, the topics with the picture from The Lord Of The Rings film were as follows:

Turn to page four

Foundation Level to Higher. Celebrating Success!

Leckie Leckie
Scotland's leading educational publishers