

Year 8 English
Summer Examination Advice



What will I be asked to do in the Year 8 Summer Examination?

You will be asked to **write a speech** for a specific audience and purpose.
You will have 45 minutes in which to complete this task.(1 hour in total including planning and editing time)

What will I have to do to be awarded marks?

You will be awarded marks for:

- Writing clearly and accurately (**paragraphs, spelling, punctuation, grammar**);
- Showing **consistent awareness of your audience and purpose** (e.g. speaking directly to your audience, rhetorical questions, focusing on the title of your task etc);
- Using a range of **interesting and engaging language** to write a speech that will entertain, inform, explain, describe and persuade.

What features of language and other techniques can I use to make my speech interesting and engaging?

There is a very wide range of language and techniques which you can employ. You may wish to use some of the following:

- Opening your speech by **greeting your audience* (*very important)** e.g. Good morning, fellow classmates;
- **Rhetorical questions** e.g. Have you ever wondered what it would feel like to...
- **Facts**;
- **Exaggeration**;
- **Humour and puns**;
- **List of three** e.g. exercise makes us feel happy, content and calm;
- **Alliteration** e.g. peace and prosperity for the people;
- **Personal experiences** (anecdotes);
- Words to **show involvement for the speaker and audience** e.g. **I, me, my, you, we, us, our**;
- Appealing to the **senses**;
- **Onomatopoeia**;
- **Similes, metaphors and imagery**;
- **Personification**;
- **Emotive language** e.g. to make the audience feel excitement, guilt, hope etc;
- Different **sentence lengths**;
- **Punctuation** for effect e.g. ? ... ! :

The above is a list of **suggestions**; you do not need to use all of them in a speech. You might also have other techniques which you would like to use!

How can I revise for this examination?

There are lots of easy ways to prepare. You can:

- **Read over sample speeches** given to you by your teacher to see how other people use language to interest their audiences. You might want to **identify and label the techniques** these people use to help you;
- **Read over the work you have done in class** to help prepare you for writing speeches;
- **Practise 5-minute plans** for speeches so that you can get used to working under **timed conditions**;
- **Practise writing the openings of a range of speeches (or writing whole speeches)** under timed conditions e.g. setting yourself 10-minute/30-minute tasks;
- Some **sample titles** might include:
Write a speech:
 - for your classmates to encourage them to take up extra-curricular activities;
 - for the teachers of your school outlining the advantages of going on school trips;
 - for your local youth club persuading them to spend money on activities/equipment of your choice;
- **Make up your own titles** for speech writing tasks;
- Practise **checking your work for accuracy and detail**;
- **Ask someone at home or a friend to read over your work** to give you some extra advice about how you can improve your written work;
- Refer back to what you covered in Library class when you were given a presentation on writing speeches;
- Make your individual revision notes in a style that suits you e.g. flash cards, mind maps, wordbanks, spider diagrams, bullet points. The following links might give you some useful ideas and advice:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks3/english/speaking_listening/speaking/revision/3/

http://www.littleover.derby.sch.uk/departments/english/sat_revision.php

<http://www.biggerplate.com/mindmaps/v881436/revision-ideas-mind-map>

<http://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/blog/index.php/2011/05/helping-your-students-get-the-most-out-of-study-leave/>

- **ALWAYS ASK FOR ADVICE WHEN REVISING IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT ANYTHING.**

What should I do during the examination itself?

1. **READ:** Read the task title carefully, making sure you are aware of the audience and purpose of your speech. Pay attention to any particular points you are asked to write about.
2. **PLAN:** Spend 5 mins (approx) planning out what points you would like to cover in your speech. You can do this in whatever form most suits you e.g. spider diagram, bullet points.
3. **WRITE:** Spend 30-35 mins (approx) writing your speech, ensuring that you are writing in paragraphs and using a range of interesting language to interest your audience.
4. **CHECK:** Spend 5 mins reading over your work carefully and correct any mistakes you might have made e.g. paragraphs, spellings, full stops etc.

