

English 10
Exam Review

The English 10 exam will consist of two parts:

- a sequence of questions in response to a poem
- an essay on *Sense and Sensibility*

The exam will be open-book and open-notes but time limited. In the 90-minute exam period, you will spend 30 minutes answering questions about a poem and then 60 minutes preparing and writing an essay on *Sense and Sensibility*. (If you are eligible for extra time, it is granted—but the exam window is big enough for you to finish without this exam interfering with afternoon tests.)

The poem

You will remember from our poetry unit the basics of form and theme and then more the local aspects within a lyric poem: line, meter, rhyme, image, and sound.

The *Sound and Sense* book does a good job of running through these aspects, and you should review carefully in the book, in your notes, and via my upcoming screencast so that you have a solid enough background to work through a given poem.

Sense and Sensibility

Coming up this week will be a debate in which you work together (with divided tasks and individual responsibility) on a proposition related to the novel. Ideas have centered around the question of whether the values of sense and sensibility are posited in the novel as opposing or as variations on a theme. Because you have some say in your topic choice for the debate, it's not 100% clear what the prompt will be, but the core ideas of the novel can be applied in any direction. Another question that may come up has to do with the relative values the novel places on use (utilitarianism) vs. beauty—or you could see this question as the active life vs. the contemplative life (as we talked about in Dante). You can expect that your essay question will draw on the work you have done in order to allow you to show what you have discovered in your debate preparation.

Before the exam, make sure you have a thorough knowledge of the plot and characters of the novel as well as of other aspects (symbols, setting, point of view, etc.). Preparing beforehand will allow you to use the test time to write quickly and well, rather than remembering characters, sequences, or how to find certain ideas in your book.

To be successful, you must prepare. The open-note aspect of the test will allow you to look up the name for a meter in *Sound and Sense* or to find the perfect passage for your idea as you write the essay—the advantages of open-book enable you a level of precision on top of what you have prepared.

Once you have opened the prompt, you are not to use the Internet. Be careful that your study sheets come from your class notes and handouts, as you are responsible for the language and ideas that make their way onto the test, and they need to be yours.

Your answer to this exam will be handwritten (double spaced) and then scanned to pdf and uploaded to the assignment in Jupiter. If you have not turned in handwritten work, you should practice before the exam with a free scanner app and the “turn-in test” assignment in Jupiter. You will be able to write your answer to the poetry question right on the test paper; being able to print is an advantage. If you don’t have a printer, you may number a piece of paper for your answers, but you may find yourself copying out a line in order to mark the meter or having to count lines, etc., to label a rhyme scheme.