

English 9  
Review for Final Exam 2020

The final exam for English 9 this year will consist of a single essay question. Once you open the prompt, you'll have an 75 minutes to address it and to write a five-paragraph essay. My thinking is that you will take 30 minutes to prepare your answer—think of the thesis and main categories of development, use your study sheets (see below) and books to find the scenes and the passages you want to use as evidence—and 45 minutes to write.

Re-acquaint yourself with the checklist for the five-paragraph essay, attached separately. The position, grammatical seamlessness, exigence, and general quality of your thesis is alone worth a letter grade on this assessment. Remember what topic sentences do, how to integrate evidence, and so on.

One text the prompt is sure to address is *Macbeth*. To be ready, make sure you have a good conversance with the results of your word journal, the reflective journal's emphases, and the study questions. Be aware of Macbeth's and Lady Macbeth's relative journeys as characters, and have some ideas about the relationship of the play to Aristotelian notions of tragedy.

The prompt will ask you to connect the work to another work from the course, based on a given theme or pattern—the prompt may tell you which work to use; the prompt may suggest a theme, generic convention (like a Romantic convention or a convention of tragedy) or character trait and allow you to choose the text. Think back over our excerpts from *The Iliad*, our work with *The Odyssey*, *Agamemnon*, *Frankenstein*, and *Antigone* (both plays). If I were taking this exam, I would make a study sheet for each text and think of prominent themes or character traits that overlap. I would be ready with passages flagged so that I could write quickly and quote with reasonable frequency.

Because the test is asking for a comparison-contrast essay, think of what structures work best. Will you move idea by idea and treat both texts in each paragraph? Will you go text by text and treat multiple ideas together? We will review some essay templates during the review on Friday, May 29.

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You may use your books, notes, and class handouts as you write, but be careful to be prepared enough beforehand that you can use your time efficiently, thinking of the best structures, revising your thesis, etc.

To have taken the exam honorably, you will have taken it on your own and without having looked up anything on the Internet after you have opened the prompt. Be sure your study sheets are free from information copied from an Internet source, because you are responsible for anything that finds its way into your test.

You have enough material from class—study questions, handouts, notes—and your annotated books to help you. Because the test will echo what we have covered in class, there is no reason to reach beyond class material.

**You are required to handwrite your test** (double space, please) and then scan it as a pdf and upload to the turn-in via the Jupiter assignment, as you have uploaded work all this quarter. Please make sure before the test that you have the tech (free scanner app) to do this efficiently.