



GCE ENGLISH LANGUAGE FOR TEACHING FROM 2015 WRITTEN EXAMINATION

UNIT 3

LANGUAGE OVER TIME

Unit 3

10 Top Tips for the exam

1. Read the **contextual information** carefully—this information will help you to understand the extracts. Text mark the important facts.
2. Look carefully at the dates of the texts and identify the **language period** in each case: 1500-1700 EME; 1700-1900 ModE; 1900-2000 LME; 2000- PDE (or any other similar classification).
3. Read the question carefully to identify the **focus** (a genre or a theme). Underline it so you can keep reminding yourself what you need to write about.
4. You have 1½ hours to complete the paper so spend around **20 minutes reading the extracts** carefully. Underline examples (words, phrases, clauses) that will help you to write about the question focus, and jot down notes in the margins.
5. Look at the **genre** of the texts and think about the key features. Use your wider knowledge to consider what kind of changes have taken place over time.
6. You must **answer the question**. Use topic sentences to address key areas related to the question focus. The structure of your paragraphs is very important—this is the way to develop an argument and engage your reader. Remember that you are assessed on the quality of your writing.
7. For **AO2** (20 marks), you need to:
 - a. discuss **key concepts** (e.g. purpose, target audience, genre)
 - b. explore evidence of different **issues** and **attitudes** (e.g. gender, religion, social status)
 - c. select appropriate **short quotations** to support the points you make, and use carefully selected terminology to analyse them.
8. For **AO3** (20 marks), you need to:
 - a. write about the **context** and explore the way it has shaped the linguistic choices of each writer
 - b. explore **meaning** explicitly, making references to details in the texts and interpreting their significance using appropriate terminology
 - c. include some **evaluation** of the linguistic choices, considering the effect these may have had on different kinds of readers (e.g. contemporary vs twenty-first century; intended vs wider audience).

9. For **AO4** (20 marks), you need to:
- a. provide an **overview** to show that you have read the texts and can summarise key features (e.g. context, content, or genre)
 - b. make **links** between the texts (e.g. differences or similarities in the context, content, attitudes, genre features, language choices, semantics) and explain them
 - c. analyse the texts using a **range of linguistic terminology** selected from the different levels of language.
10. Things to **avoid**:
- a. comments on archaic spelling—unless you can make a point linked to the meaning of the text, or the idiosyncrasies of the writer
 - b. broad references to historical concepts—unless you can relate them directly to the extracts
 - c. an unbalanced response—if you spend too long on the first texts you discuss, you will run out of time to explore the third.

Engage! Analyse! Interpret!