11+ Writing

Autumn 2021

In each lesson we will study a particular examiner’s writing tip for the 11+ exam, using examples from two mock exam questions per week to help us think about the format and structure of these questions. For each different type of writing, we will consider the key conventions of each, looking at what is important to remember and how to score the top marks, whilst also focusing on general writing skills and expanding the students’ comfort zone, enabling them to play around with language in a creative and innovative way. By the end of these ten weeks, they will have studied many of the most common and crucial writing styles for the exam and will have also taken a mock exam, designed to help them find their own unique, original voice in their writing.

*Lesson 1:* **“Focus on one central character”**

Paper: Magdalen College School (2012)

Skills learnt: Characterisation, dialogue, description

*Lesson 2:* **“Base your story around one main plot event”**

Paper: Hampton Court House (Sample)

Skills learnt: Pacing, conflict, finding the unexpected

*Lesson 3:* **“Use sophisticated structure”**

Paper: Emanuel School (Sample)

Skills learnt: Advanced SPaG, focus shifts, juxtaposition

*Lesson 4:* **“Be careful with your figurative language”**

Paper: Highgate 2020 (Sample 1)

Skills learnt: Extended metaphor, symbolism, use of themes

*Lesson 5:* **“Think outside the box”**

Paper: Caterham 13+ (2019)

Skills learnt: Twisting narratives, unusual perspectives, language building

*Lesson 6:* **“Write with an economy of language”**

Paper: Winchester College (2018)

Skills learnt: Short-story writing, world creation, packing language with meaning

*Lesson 7****:* “Have an opinion”**

Paper: John Lyon School (Sample)

Skills learnt: Tone control, knowing your audience, using evidence

*Lesson 8****:* “Take inspiration”**

Paper: St Augustine’s Priory (2016)

Skills learnt: Continuing a story, appreciating writing, analysing writer’s choice

*Lesson 9:* **“Evaluate your own and others’ work”**

Paper: N/A

Skills learnt: Drafting and editing, planning, marking and evaluating

*Lesson 10:* **Mock Exam**

This lesson will contain a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about 11+ writing over the past nine sessions. They will be asked to complete a thirty-minute exam under timed conditions, which we will then go through step by step as a class. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson and can use these mocks to track their progress and work out their strengths and areas of improvement in writing. This lesson is designed to consolidate their knowledge and to help them get used to the format of writing in exams. They should aim to use as many different advanced writing techniques, high-level vocab examples and interesting structural devices as possible- all of which we will have covered in the preceding weeks.