

In our GCSE writing course we will be thinking about different types of GCSE writing to help the students craft their own responses to a mixture of creative and non-fiction writing prompts typical of a GCSE exam. We will look at different writing techniques that should be employed and discuss the ways in which students can make their writing stand out to examiners, keeping their writing fluent and original throughout. The first **four weeks** will be **creative writing**, the second **four weeks** will be **non-fiction** and our final two lessons will feature a writing workshop and a mock exam. Each lesson will focus on one past paper- the students should not look at past papers before the lesson as we will be covering it together in class.

Lesson 1: Writing Based on Place

In this lesson we will look at how a sense of place can lead a piece of writing, studying prompts which focus on the descriptive rather than the narrative- i.e., describe a place you remember from childhood. We will learn about how to create vivid, haunting images, and think about how to bring a scene to life through descriptive techniques.

Lesson 2: Writing Based on Genre

In this lesson we will focus on genre- using the science fiction genre as a template and thinking about how a clear, creative understanding of genre can help the students achieve top marks. We will complete exercises where the class play with genre and see how it fits into the format of the exam overall.

Lesson 3: Writing Based on a Picture

In this lesson we will look at the common question type of writing based upon a picture, thinking about how to use imagery and how to combine writing based on a picture with thinking about presenting the passage of time, experimenting with unusual narrative techniques.

Lesson 4: Writing Based on Emotion

In this lesson we will address the question type that asks students to write a story based upon a time they have experienced a particular emotion, questioning what this requires of students and thinking about techniques for engaging the reader emotively. We will dig into the complexities of describing human emotion and think about the power of metaphor.

Lesson 5 & 6: Argumentative Essays

These lessons will focus on the different skills required in writing a well-crafted argument that speaks to both sides of the debate whilst taking a clear stance on the issue. We will look at the skills involved in building arguments, using skills such as debate in order to elucidate this. We will look at pieces of journalism that put together compelling arguments in service of this goal.

Lesson 7 & 8: Narrative Essays

These lessons will focus on the form of a narrative essay, similar to those used for personal statements and autobiographical GCSE prompts- reflecting on the writer's opinions on a subject and revolving around anecdote, personal insight and reflection. We will use authors such as Joan Didion to help inspire the students to think about this type of essay and what can be achieved with it.

Week 9: Writing Workshop

In this lesson the students will have a workshopping and revision week, giving them the chance to work on any areas they feel they would benefit from focusing on and allowing them space to brainstorm pieces and responses together. The students will practice some writing exercises, thinking about how to incorporate these into their lives, and will have a chance to workshop and peer-evaluate their work.

Week 10: Mock Exam

This lesson will be a mock exam to help test the students' skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about GCSE writing over the past nine sessions. They will be asked to complete mock GCSE paper under timed conditions, answering both a creative and a non-fiction prompt. 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. 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.