11+ Writing

Summer 2024

In each lesson we will study a particular skill set 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 six 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:* **Prompts**

We will focus on prompt-based writing, using an 11+ exam which asks the students to write using a picture as inspiration. We will think about factors such as how to take a unique perspective on a prompt in order to impress the examiner and will consider important writing elements such as the use of literary techniques, word choice, and how to combine narrative and descriptive writing most effectively.

*Lesson 2:* **Persuasive**

We will begin our work on persuasive essay writing, thinking about how this is brought up in an exam and how the students should think about creating an argument from scratch in an exam context. We will discuss persuasive techniques and how best to use them, applying this to a range of prompts from 11+ exam papers.

*Lesson 3:* **Characterisation**

We will look at characterisation & continuing a story- studying different examples that link to the fiction texts we have studied in the course so far. We will look at the ways in which to use dialogue, character and style in these question types and complete some group work on continuing a story together.

*Lesson 4:* **Debate**

We will complete our work on persuasive essay writing in the 11+ exam, turning to the notion of essay structure and how to write tight, argumentative thesis statements. The class will have a mini debate which will then feed into the planning of an essay, giving form to their argument through paragraphing and keeping the message sharp and concise throughout.

*Lesson 5:* **Workshopping**

In this lesson we will complete group work and revise all the key elements we have learned over the course. The students will get a chance to bounce ideas off one another, ask questions and practice key skills in advance of our mini mock next week.

*Lesson 6:* **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 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.