

General Exam Advice Nat 5 and Higher

Combined RUAЕ and Textual Analysis

- Number your answers.
- Don't re-write the question – waste of time.
- Use bullet points.
- Read the questions carefully – eg in your own words.
- Don't miss tasks out. Always write something.
- Don't cross anything out. The marker will ignore poor answers but will also have to ignore any accurate answers which you may have crossed out.
- Look for obvious and easy answers – eg word choice and structure.
- Mix up techniques eg 4 marks on language needs at least two different techniques.
- Always consider 1 mark for one point made (or quotation at Nat 5 where appropriate).
- Always explain.
- Higher tariff answer merit more in an answer.
- Link questions need you to show how the phrase/sentence references before (quotes) and after (quotes) and explain the link eg a development or change.
- Effective conclusion questions need an association of something from the last part of the passage with something from earlier in the passage. Quote and explain the connection.
- Last question at Higher needs agreement/disagreement x minimum of three key areas, plus evidence (quotes), plus explanation.
- Last textual Analysis task – use 3 part approach – commonality/printed Text/ additional text(s). Remember to explain the commonality.

Critical Essay

- Your response must be relevant to the tasks.
- Choose your task carefully.
- Write a plan.
- Don't memorise an essay – just know your text well.
- Do not retell the story.
- Key scene/key incident/turning point questions must show awareness of the before (build up) and the after (consequences) to do well.
- Use the point/evidence/explanation structure to help you – perhaps add link to this.
- Don't start or end analysis with a quote.
- Try to include appropriate evaluative comment/judgement – eg social/political awareness.
- Don't make statements of exaggerated value judgement.
- Prioritise demonstrating the overall theme of the text 'as a whole'.

Overall

- Many marks are lost because of candidates ignoring 'own words' instructions.
- Candidates at Higher who adopt a one point for one mark approach do better.
- The biggest problems faced by candidates in RUAЕ are linked to vocabulary. Candidates with a developed vocabulary at Nat 5 or Higher levels will do better. Work on this now.

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- Time management is important.
- In the exam it's unlikely that you have scored 100% so don't stop writing until they tell you to at the very end.