

English Terminology

Familiarise yourself with the spelling and meanings of these words. Identify them when you read the work of others (for use in your English reading and Literature papers) and use them in your own writing (English writing tasks).

LANGUAGE

Nouns – objects/things *dog, table*

Adjectives – describe nouns *fat, red, beautiful*

Verbs – doing words *walk, sing, hate*

Adverbs – describe verbs *slowly, quickly, nicely*

Pronouns – take the place of a noun *it, he, they*

Tenses – past, present, future *walked, walk, will walk*

Personification – bestowing human characteristics on inanimate objects *the sun smiled down*

Similes – compares one thing with another using 'like' or 'as' *Like an orange split open*

Metaphors – uses the features of one thing to describe another *White wool sacks - clouds*

Colours – black is associated with death, emptiness, evil; red is associated with danger and passion etc.

Alliteration – repetition of consonants: *flag flaring*

Assonance - repetition of vowel sounds: *field, real*

Onomatopoeia – word sounds like its meaning: *slap, crash, shatter*

Oxymoron – contrasting words used for a particular effect: *blinding illumination*

Imperatives – commands: *stand, sit, taste, buy*

Questions

Senses – taste, touch, sight, sound, smell

Words associated with a particular theme: religion, war, love, death etc.

STRUCTURE

Stanzas – length and number

Number of lines in each stanza – regular/irregular

Stanza break

Rhythm – number of syllables

Rhyme

Blank verse – no rhyme but written in iambic pentametre

Free verse – no rhyme and no rhythm

Iambic pentameter – line of poetry that contains ten syllables (five stressed beats) beginning with an unstressed beat

Punctuation

Capitals

Repetition/refrain

Enjambment – when a line of poetry doesn't end with a full stop but continues on into the next line

PERSUASIVE TECHNIQUES

Purpose/audience – why something was written and for whom

Facts/opinions – facts can be proven, opinions can't

Rhetorical questions – used to make someone think rather than requiring an answer

Emotive language – word that evoke emotions: *poor little* children

Personal anecdote – short story that supports or gives credence to the point you are trying to make

Vocabulary – appropriate and sophisticated/informal

Repetition – when a word or phrase is repeated for effect

Hyperbole – for emphasis *there were millions of them*

Pattern of three – she was *tall, slim and beautiful*

WRITING SKILLS

- **Use a variety of sentence structures**
- **Paragraphs**
- **Punctuation**
- **Spelling**
- **Vocabulary**
- **First/third person**

Tenses
Dialogue
Connectives