

The skills and/or topics needed to achieve Grades 8 & 9 are . . .

Writing focus

Varied sentence openings (adverb, verb) avoid starting with "and" or "but"

Sentence variation, including embedded subordinate clauses

Crafting of structure to engage the reader

Varied and accurate range of punctuation for effect

Reading focus

Always make specific references to the text

Short, specific quotes

Write a lot about a little. For example select a single word quote and explore multiple layers of meaning.

If aiming for Grades 8 & 9 you will need to particularly focus on this in your exam papers . . .

Consciously crafting your opening paragraph to include a range of sentence type, three different pieces of punctuation, sophisticated vocabulary (spelt correctly)

Judicious range of quotes - wide and varied - selected for effect and explore the intention.

Methods used by the writer to achieve a specific effect.

You can find resources to support your preparation at . . .

Educake quizzes

Bitesize

Year blog

When completing independent revision you should . . .

Read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Open a book, read the first page and select three words that have been used for effect. Why did the writer select that phrase?

Read non-fiction texts to get an idea of tone and form. In particular newspaper and magazine article.

Stay ahead of current issues; climate change, pollution, sports etc..

Grade boundary for a Grade 8 in 2019

29/40 (each section is marked out of 40) 59/80 and 108/180

Grade boundary for a Grade 9 in 2019

32/40 64/80 128/180

Top tips for aiming for Grades 8 & 9

Craft your writing effectively and in a sophisticated way. There should be shape to your writing as you look at it on the page, not neat same line paragraphs.

