

# ENGLISH 10 SEMESTER II EXAM STUDY GUIDE

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## General Information

The English 10 semester exam lasts two hours and the resulting mark produces 10% of your semester grade. Arrive at your testing location on time and bring your favorite lucky pens.

Here are the two most important pieces of advice:

**1. Exam Preparation Strategy:** You will select and then respond to either a passage from a drama or an entire “unseen” short story; not both. BUT it makes best sense for you to prepare to analyze texts in both genres. Do not decide in advance which text you will choose.

**2. Exam Writing Strategy:** Think of the first 30 minutes of the exam as a preparation period. You will be given two texts, both of which you may annotate. Prepare thoroughly and outline your analytical response. The exam must be written in pen, but you may bring highlighters and pencils for making marginal notes on the textual passages.

Learn and follow the guidelines available on the handout entitled “English 10 In class Writing Tips,” which is posted to our Moodle page. Strategies for drafting, revision, and time management are available on that document. For example, extensive prewriting is strongly encouraged.

The two texts offered on the exam will be

- a brief passage from William Shakespeare’s drama, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar*, and
- an “unseen” short story we have not read in class.

## Instructions and Expectations

You will select one (1) text and write a literary analysis essay in response to it. In responding to either text, your literary analysis essay should

- open with an intriguing and informative **title**
- offer a **lead sentence** designed to make the audience want to read further
- include a brief **introduction** that includes a complete textual identification (author, title, genre) at the first mention of the source text
- present a **thesis** that
  - identifies the main idea of the essay as specifically as possible
  - is interesting enough to engage a skeptical audience by presenting an arguable [C→E] claim,
  - reveals the structure of the essay by indicating the order of the body paragraphs
- support the thesis with minimum of three (3) body paragraphs arranged in emphatic order

- develop **body paragraphs** that include
  - a complete ¶TS (transition + [C→E] claim)
  - the narrative or dramatic context to frame textual evidence
  - a minimum of three (3) pieces of textual evidence per paragraph
  - careful reasoning to explain how the textual evidence supports the ¶TS
  - appropriate employment of literary terms
  - a summary sentence
- close with a single **conclusion** paragraph consisting of one (1) sentence to recap the thesis and then a bit of “other” as we have defined it.

## **Suggested Preparation Strategies for Responding to Drama Passages**

- Carefully review the literary terms presented on the handout entitled “Western Drama Terms and Definitions.”
- Review the handouts entitled “Elements of a Persuasive Essay,” “Prewriting Worksheet: Literary Analysis Essays,” “Formal vs. Informal Language,” and “English 10: In class Writing Tips.”
- Review the handouts posted to the Moodle page that guided you through the crafting and evaluation of literary and rhetorical analyses, especially “Strategy for Writing Literary Analysis Paragraphs.”
- Review the play we read together. Select practice passages and then make notes about how the dramatic, literary, and rhetorical elements within the passage produce its meaning(s). Then collect evidence that might allow you to demonstrate how the elements within the passage and the meaning of the passage are interrelated.
- Carefully review the literary and rhetorical writing exercises you have submitted this semester. Note the strengths of each and areas that reveal opportunities for improvement.
- After selecting a passage from the play, craft a practice question, draft a written literary analysis essay under timed conditions, and then assess your work using the “Checklist Guide for Assessment of Literary Analysis Essays.”

## **Suggested Preparation Strategies for Responding to Narrative Prose**

- Carefully review the literary terms presented on the handout entitled “Narrative Literary Terms.”
- Review the handouts entitled “Elements of a Persuasive Essay,” “Prewriting Worksheet: Literary Analysis Essays,” “Formal vs. Informal Language,” and “English 10: In class Writing Tips.”
- Review the handouts posted to the Moodle page that guided your through the crafting and evaluation of your literary analyses, especially “Strategy for Writing Literary Analysis Paragraphs.”
- Review the short stories we read together. Select a story or stories and make additional notes about how the narrative elements produced the themes of the stories.
- Review the literary analyses, theme statements, and practice theses you have submitted this semester. Note the strengths of each and areas that reveal opportunities for improvement.
- Using a sample “unseen” short story posted to our Moodle page, craft a practice question, draft a literary analysis essay under timed conditions, and then assess your work using the “Checklist Guide for Assessment of Literary Analysis Essays.”