

English 20-1 – Exam One Study Guide

This exam assesses the knowledge and skills you acquired in Modules 1 and 2 in English 20-1.

It is weighted at 15% of your overall mark in the course. This is a supervised exam so you must arrange for an approved exam supervisor or book a time to write at one of our campuses.

There are three sections on the exam. We have recommended how much time to spend on each assignment to help you budget your time appropriately.

Budget your time wisely!	Weighting
Skim exam (5 minutes)	
Part A: Multiple Choice (45 minutes)	40 marks
Part B: Personal Response to Text (45 minutes)	20 marks
Part C: Critical Response to Texts (60 minutes)	40 marks
Skim your answers for completion and correctness	
Total	100 marks

General Instructions:

Skim the entire exam before you begin. Be sure to leave time at the end of the exam to review your answers for completion and correctness.

Complete all sections. *Read instructions* very carefully.

Bring a **blue** or **black** ink pen if you are handwriting your exam. Exams are often scanned and emailed back so if you write in pencil or a light-coloured pen, your exam will be illegible.

If you are typing the written portions of the exam, use 12-point font, such as Times New Roman, and attach the printed pages to the exam booklet.

You are welcome to refer to a dictionary, thesaurus, and your Writer's Handbook during the exam. No other texts are allowed.

The exam is designed to be completed in 2.5 hours, but you may use an extra 30 minutes if you wish.

Part A: Multiple Choice

Details

- This section is designed to test your knowledge of the following:
 - Texts you have read in the first portion of the course: “The Charmer” by Budge Wilson; “Boys and Girls” by Alice Munro; *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan, and *The Shape of a Girl* by Joan Macleod.
- Here are some things you will need to know for the exam:
 - The significance or meaning of **key lines** or **events** in the texts
 - The main **ideas/themes** of the texts
 - The **motivation** behind certain characters’ actions
 - The reason behind certain **stylistic choices** made by the author (or illustrator)
 - The **history** and **theory** of drama
 - **Key terms**

Tips

- Remember to read multiple choice questions carefully. The questions are written in such a way as to guide you to the correct answers.
- Pay close attention to phrases like “most clearly” that appear in the question stems. They indicate that more than one answer will seem correct, but the bold word will help you choose between the alternatives.

How to Study

- See the **Details** section above. Spend time reviewing these texts, focusing on the main events in the plot, the themes, key details about the characters, setting, et cetera. Go over the self-assessment quizzes as well, taking a careful look at the answer key provided.
- Find **significant lines** or in the texts and ask yourself why they are important.
- Think back to **important decisions** the character made and ask yourself what **motivated** the character to make those decisions. Were there any **outside influences**? What was the **impact of their decisions**?
- Review the section and tutorial on **drama theory** (as well as Quiz 3.4) and know your history!
- Review your **Film Study Tutorial** and the **Script Writing Tutorial**.
- Review the **key terms** in the course content thoroughly.

Part B: Personal Response to Text

Details

- For this portion of the test, you will be given a topic, prompts (visual and/or text), and you will be asked to write a personal response about this topic, based on a text you studied in the first half of the course.
- You must respond in prose (not poetry), which means you can write an essay, story, journal, or script, as long as it responds to the prompt and refers to the text(s) indicated.

Tips

- Read the topic and the instructions carefully. Decide on which type of response you will write. **Then make a plan to keep yourself organized as you write.**
- If you are writing an essay, plan the thesis and topic sentences.
- If you are writing a story, sketch out the plot map (initial event, rising action, climax, falling action, and denouement).
- If you are writing another kind of response, be sure to organize it so it is easy for the reader to follow. **Make sure that it addresses the assigned topic.**
- You will be marked on your ability to **connect personally to the topic**, so it is very important that you do so. This means either incorporating stories from your life, and/or really showing your personality through your “voice” - word choice, details, creativity, et cetera. You are allowed to use the first person (I/me/my) in a personal response.
- You will also be marked on the following:
 - Organization of ideas
 - Depth of thought/insightful exploration of the topic
 - Use of voice and other stylistic effects such as figurative language and detail
 - Basic proofreading, grammar, and writing skills

How to Study

- Review the Personal Response Tutorial from Module 2 in your course. If you are completing your course using the print booklets, you can access all the tutorials in the Resource Unit of the online course.
- Review the major texts you have studied in this course. Know the key themes, the characters, the author’s name, and important events.
- Read through the material on writing the Personal Response in Module Two. Review your personal response assignments and the feedback you received: what were your strengths and where did you need to improve?
- Choose a format that suits your strengths. If you are not confident writing a script, it is not the time to experiment. Focus on what you know how to do.

Part C: Critical Response to Texts

Details

- For this section, you will have to utilize **one or more texts you studied in the first half of the course** to respond to the essay question/topic.
- This response should be in essay form with an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion.
- Remember the rules of formal writing: no first person (I/me) and no second person (you). Avoid slang, abbreviations, and contractions (e.g. can't, won't).
- You will not have access to the novels, stories, poems or films while writing this essay, so you cannot use exact quotations as evidence. However, **you must use specific references to the text as evidence.**

Tips

- Read the topic and the instructions carefully.
- **Make a plan to keep yourself organized as you write.** Plan the thesis and topic sentences. Your thesis should answer the essay question and the topic sentence should relate to your thesis.
- You will be marked on the following:
 - Organization of ideas
 - Depth of thought/insightful exploration of the topic
 - Specific and persuasive textual evidence (referring to actual events, conversations, etc. in the text to support your point)
 - Effective word choice and other stylistic choices
 - Grammar, spelling, punctuation and capitalization as well as smooth and varied sentence structure

****If you do not respond using literature from the course, or if you simply summarize the plot of a text you studied, you will be asked to write the appeal exam.****

How to Study

- Review the settings, plots, characters, themes, symbols, points of view, etc., from the major texts you have studied in the first half of the course.
- Review the four essential questions in the course. Ask yourself how these apply to the major texts you have read.
- Review the format of a basic essay (what goes in an intro, body paragraphs, and conclusion).
- Take a look at the tutorial and the slideshow on writing critical essays in the Resource Unit of the online course.
- Review your critical essay assignments and the feedback you received: what were your strengths and where did you need to improve?