



ADVICE TO PUPILS OF ALL STREAMS

Your English test is centred around the reading passage.

- Read it at least twice very attentively as well as the comprehension questions.
- These questions help you understand the reading passage better.
- Use a pencil to underline what seems important
- Identify the text: Is it a piece of narration, a description, an opinion...? In the latter case, identify the positive and negative arguments.
- Underline the linking words that indicate the text structure
- Read carefully the instructions given
- Organise your time so that you can re-read your final work at least twice.

I) **READING COMPREHENSION:**

Questions are about the characters, their relationships, the essential facts and ideas of the reading passage.

The answers asked do not exceed one line.

Various types of activities are used to test your comprehension: True/False Statements, Multiple Choice Questions, Filling the table with information from the text, Identifying type of discourse or type of text...

II) **LANGUAGE COMPETENCE**

This latter is tightly linked to the reading passage. Grammar activities are treated in a context. They illustrate most of the time, structures used in the passage. You should be careful and be able to make the necessary links between this testing part and the reading passage.

As far as lexis is concerned, the equivalents, the opposites, the definitions ... depend on the context of the text.

* **Do not forget:** If an adjective for example is given, you should find the equivalent adjective. If it is a verb, you should find a verb etc...

III) **WRITTEN EXPRESSION**

You always have a choice between two topics.

The topics are linked to the reading passage. One of them is even in a very close relation with it.

*Don't write something too long or something too short.

*Respect the number of words/lines you are asked to write.

*Pay attention to the way the subject is presented: Is it a question? Does it begin with 'Why?' If so, you should understand that it is a justification: you are going to write perhaps about reasons and causes.

If it begins with 'What do you think of ...?' It means you are going to develop an opinion sustained by arguments.

*You are asked to write a composition. You may decide to write just one paragraph.

When writing your paragraph, do not forget **the key idea.**

do not forget to use **relevant linking words.**

If you decide to write more than one paragraph (two or three short ones), do not forget that you must write an introduction (one or two lines) and a conclusion (one or two lines).

***Two things are essential:** A written composition should be **legible** and **interesting.**

The presentation and **the handwriting** are very important.