

EXAM FORMAT

- 2 close readings, worth 50% each
- Analyze one of the few given passages from a work read in class
- Comment on plot, characterization, setting, point of view or other literary devices seen in class
- Brief essay, three to four paragraphs in length

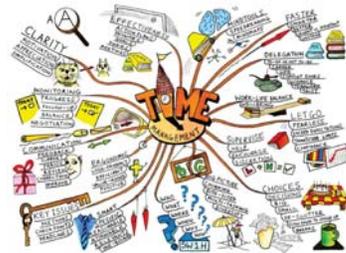
HOW TO STUDY

- Group study
 - For self-testing and review
 - To fill in areas and ideas you didn't understand or missed in your notes
- For essay questions:
 - Mind maps
 - Useful for understanding the connections between different literary ideas, books, and themes
 - Helps with creating essay outlines
 - Practice making essay outlines
 - Identify common themes between literary works
- Tables:
 - Useful for organizing themes and ideas
 - Allows you to think conceptually about course concepts
- Properly formulate your essay. Make sure every paragraph begins with a topic sentence, and a concluding point to summarize your ideas

SAMPLE TABLE

	Themes	Genre	Literary Devices
War and Peace	- Family - Nationalism - History	- Epic - Novel	- Characterization - Polyglossia
Anna Karenina	- Family - Religion - Sin	- Novel	- Symbolism - Characterization - Biblical quotation
Sevastopol Stories	- War - Nationalism	- Journalism	- Description - First-person narrative

SAMPLE MIND MAP

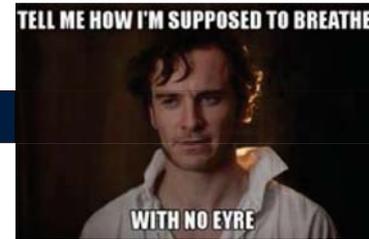


FINDING AND USING PRACTICE QUESTIONS

- ExamBank for self-testing and to refer to previous exams in the course
- Review tutorial and in-class questions
- Formulate your own practice essay questions
- Practice in exam conditions: time yourself, and avoid interruptions.

STUDY AND EXAM PREP RESOURCES

- Practice questions from Exam Bank
- Reading and comprehension practice questions in your textbook
- Your TAs (question and answer periods during tutorial sessions)
- Mind maps, concept charts and notes for the works seen in class



COMMON MISTAKES

- Focusing on too many works at once. Focus on works that have been brought up in lecture or in tutorial several times, rather than small works you have only seen briefly
- Reading passively. Make sure to engage with the works fully as you reread material. Identify important themes and topics, and read to answer specific questions about how material relates to the course
- Focusing on only one or two themes without making connections to other themes and ideas seen in the course
- Overwriting and lack of concision during the essay. Make sure to create an outline before writing the essay in order to avoid vague points and a lack of clarity

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Make an appointment with the Queen's Writing Centre for essay writing guides to help you next semester
- Talk to professors and TAs to set up a plan for success and to talk about goals you have for this course and upcoming years
- Try to practice reading and analyzing over the summer. If you can, ask the prof for reading lists and make a start on long or complex works
- Keep writing: the more you write, the better your analytical ability will be

OTHER RESOURCES

- Queen's Writing Centre
- Exam Bank
- Your professors and TAs
- SASS' online resources on exam preparation and test anxiety
- Look out for the English DSC's prep and study sessions

FINAL TAKEAWAYS

- Make sure to read the exam passage a few times and with attention to detail, making notes as you brainstorm, before launching into your answer
- Create an outline before writing the essay to effectively guide your thinking and organize your ideas
- Aim to incorporate literary devices and terms in your explanations to effectively illustrate your points, but don't overwhelm the reader with technical terms: make sure you have a clear and concise argument and thesis statement