

MINISTERIAL EXAMINATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND LITERATURE

7 AUGUST 2019

WRITING GUIDELINES

Read over the questions below and write a well-written, well-organized **750-word analytical essay** based on a **main idea** in **one** of the three readings. Remember to interpret, rather than summarize, the reading as a whole.

READING 1: A short story
“Take Me Away” by Jagtar Kaur Atwal

Write an essay that develops a thesis statement about a main idea in Atwal’s short story. In your analysis of her text, be sure to explain how Atwal uses literary techniques and devices to construct that idea.* Make specific references to the reading to support your interpretation.

READING 2: An essay
“Blinded by Science” by Timothy Caulfield

Write an essay that develops a thesis statement about a main idea in Caulfield’s essay. In your analysis of his text, be sure to explain how Caulfield uses rhetorical techniques and devices to construct that idea.** Make specific references to the reading to support your interpretation.

READING 3: A short story
“The Perfect Day” by Kathy Page

Write an essay that develops a thesis statement about a main idea in Page’s short story. In your analysis of her text, be sure to explain how Page uses literary techniques and devices to construct that idea.* Make specific references to the reading to support your interpretation.

Note that essays of fewer than 600 words will automatically receive a failing grade.

- * Literary techniques and devices commonly used in **short stories** include alliteration, allusion, characterization, conflict, dialogue, diction, flashback, foreshadowing, imagery, irony, juxtaposition, metaphor, narrative point of view, setting, simile, symbolism and tone. You may discuss other techniques and devices as well. Note that some authors may use unconventional devices regardless of genre.
- ** Rhetorical techniques and devices commonly used in **essays** include analogy, anecdote, appeal to authority, cause and effect, comparison, contrast, definition, description, diction, empirical evidence, enumeration, ethos, example, irony, level of language, logos, narration, pathos, refutation of opposing views, repetition, rhetorical questions, and tone. You may discuss other techniques and devices as well. Note that some authors may use unconventional devices regardless of genre.