

Mini-Essay – Shakespeare (King Lear)

We hope you're having a good holiday! ☺

Some mini-essay reminders:

PLAN:

- ✓ You need to include a one-page PLAN.
- ✓ Your plan must indicate the STRUCTURE that your written essay is going to have (what points will you include in your intro, par. 1, etc?)
- ✓ Your plan must include the QUOTES that you are going to use. DO NOT simply list the quotes you plan to throw into your essay. Write out the quotes within the structural / paragraph plan (e.g. Par. 3: Lear believes he is innocent → 'more sinned against than sinning'...)
- ✓ Your integration of the play (King Lear) and the GIVEN TOPIC (text/visual/quote) must be clear!

ESSAY:

- ✓ Your introduction must indicate the stance you're taking and must refer clearly to the play and to the given topic.
- ✓ Underline the title of the play (King Lear). This goes for The Native Commissioner as well (literary essay).
- ✓ Weave your quotes seamlessly into the flow of your own writing!
- ✓ Sprinkle your essay liberally with appropriate quotes!
- ✓ Link your paragraphs effectively with words like 'However...' and 'Nevertheless...' and 'Furthermore...'
- ✓ Make sure you don't wander off the point! Every paragraph you develop should link clearly back to the given topic (the visual or text).
- ✓ Your conclusion should not include any new ideas. Sum up your stance. Link back to the topic.
- ✓ Don't moralise or preach. Don't be cocky or facetious.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to express your own insights and creative interpretations, but use Standard English and remember that this is a formal, academic assessment so your register needs to be appropriate. Make sure any assertions you make can be solidly supported from the play.

Here's a mini-essay question, to practise...:

Remember this would be the first question of your Paper 2, the Writing Paper (Shakespeare, novel, transactional writing).

Write a mini-essay in response to the following question. The length of your response should be 350 – 400 words. Remember that your response must be preceded by a **one page plan** of what you intend to argue in your essay. The plan must provide an indication of how you will **structure** your essay, and must indicate the **quotations** you will use in your essay. **Please provide a word count at the end of the essay.**

Your knowledge of *King Lear* and your ability to plan, structure and substantiate your stance – including the use of quotations – will be assessed.

Consider the news extract below. Discuss how the concerns highlighted in the article are similar to those in *King Lear*. You will need to make reference to plot, character and theme in *King Lear*.

Mugabe is 'a mad dictator' - Source: <http://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/Mugabe-is-a-mad-dictator-20081222>

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Geneva - Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe is "a mad dictator" who has lost all sense of reality, a United Nations human rights expert said on Monday.

The only way Mugabe can be removed from power is for Europe to convince his "great protector South Africa" to withdraw all support for him, Jean Ziegler, an adviser to the UN's Human Rights Council, told Swiss Radio.

Mugabe, Ziegler declared, "is a former hero of the liberation struggle who has lost all sense of reality.... and become a mad dictator." He added: "The horror in Zimbabwe today is absolutely intolerable." The comments from the Swiss sociologist, who has little sympathy for the Western countries most critical of Mugabe, reflected the despair over Zimbabwe on the rights council.