

Hillcrest High School

English Home Language

Exam Breakdown

## **Grade 10: June 2026 Examinations Paper 2**

Paper 2: Literature (80 marks) ~ 2 ½ hours

### **Section A: Poetry (30 marks)**

- Unseen poem (10 marks) – Compulsory
- Seen poems (choose 2 out of 4) (2x 10 marks). Poems to revise are:

1. *Reapers in a Mieliefield* – Oswald Mtshali

2. *Hope is a thing with feathers* – Emily Dickinson

3. *Caged Bird* – Maya Angelou

4. *a young man's thoughts before June the 16th* – Fhazel Johennesse

### **Section B: Drama Contextual (25 marks)**

- Contextual Questions on “Romeo and Juliet”:
- Acts 1-3

#### **Contextual question analysis skills – what is required of you?**

- Knowledge of plot (what happens in the text)
- Knowledge of characters (personalities, relationships, decisions & why they are made, contribution to the plot and themes).
- Knowledge of themes (a theme is a central topic, subject, or message within the play. For example, love, fate, haste, hate, etcetera.)
- A director's question will be asked. You will need to discuss how you would direct an actress or actor to perform a certain line by referring to their body language and tone. You will need to give reasons for the direction you give.
- Understanding of imagery used by Shakespeare.

### **Section C: Drama essay (25 marks)**

- Literary essay on “Romeo and Juliet”
- Acts 1-3 – Revise plot, character and themes. Try to learn some key quotes that you can attempt to use in your essay (if they are suitable).
- Structure: Pay attention to the structure of paragraphs & the essay.
- Follow the PEEL (Point, Example, Explain, Link) or SQC (State, Quote, Comment) method when planning.
- Language: Be mindful to use formal, academically appropriate language.
- Purpose: Focus your discussion on the topic & the requirements thereof.
- Verb tense: Write in the present tense.
- Write in the third person.