



Hillcrest High School

English Home Language ~ Exam Breakdowns for June 2026

Grade 11: June Examinations

Paper 1: Comprehension, Summary and Language (70 marks) ~ 2 hours

- Section A - Comprehension: Reading for meaning and understanding (30 marks)
 - Read the text to understand the subject matter
 - Use text to substantiate responses.
 - Use mark allocation as a guide as to how much to write.
 - Identify key question words.
 - Answer double-barrelled (or even triple-barrelled) questions.
 - Compare and contrast text and visual source – usually regarding meaning/intention of author.

- Section B - Summary (10 marks)
 - Identify the main points of the passage provided.
 - Use your OWN words (this means removing examples, quotes, statistics etc.).
 - Provide an accurate word count.
 - Paragraph form.

- Section C: Language in Context
- Advertising (10 marks)
 - Identifying target market
 - USP (unique selling point)
 - Link between text and image
 - Effectiveness of advert, layout, design

- Cartoons (10 marks)
 - Humour/message of cartoon – Irony and satire are important concepts to revise.
 - Use visuals and text to support answers.
 - Intention of cartoonist

- Editing (10 marks):
 - Parts of Speech, punctuation, concord errors, active and passive voice, types of sentences, changing forms of the words, direct and indirect speech, malapropism, redundancy etc.



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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. Hanging Fire – Audre Lourde
 2. London, 1802 – William Wordsworth
 3. Eating Poetry – Mark Strand
 4. The Ride – Joyce Chigiya
- Revise the poetry essay format (question 1 of the poetry section is always a poetry essay question).

- Section B: Novel contextual (25 marks)
 - Contextual Questions on “Tsotsi”:
 - Chapters 1-3
 - Contextual question analysis skills – what is required of you?
 - Plot (what happens in the text)
 - Characters (personalities, relationships, decisions & why they are made, contribution to the plot and themes).
 - Themes (a theme is a central topic, subject, or message within a narrative.)

- Section C: Drama essay (25 marks)
 - Literary essay on “Macbeth”
 - Acts 1-4
 - Structure: Pay attention to the structure of paragraphs & the essay.
 - Follow the PEEL (Point, Example, Explain, Link) or SQC (State, Quote, Comment) methods 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.