

**MINISTERIAL EXAMINATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND LITERATURE**

17 MAY 2017

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
“Eyes and Ears” by O Thiam Chin**

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

**READING 2: A short story
“A Kindness” by Adam Foulds**

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

**READING 3: An essay
“Rice Cracker” by Maria Tessa Liem**

Write an essay that develops a thesis statement about a main idea in Liem’s essay. In your analysis of her text, be sure to explain how Liem 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.

* **Techniques and devices, depending on the genre, may include the following:** alliteration, allusion, analogy, appeal to authority, cause and effect, characterization, comparison, contrast, definition, description, dialogue, diction, empirical evidence, enumeration, example, flashback, foreshadowing, imagery, irony, level of language, metaphor, narration, narrative point of view, refutation of opposing views, repetition, rhetorical questions, setting, simile, symbolism and tone. You may discuss other techniques and devices as well.