

MINISTERIAL EXAMINATION OF COLLEGE ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION AND LITERATURE

9 AUGUST 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**  
**“Digging for Thomas” by Miranda Hill**

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

**READING 2: An essay**  
**“What I Learned from Tickling Apes” by Frans de Waal**

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

**READING 3: A short story**  
**“Melba Kuperchmid Returns” by Peter M. Orner**

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