



ST. MARY'S *Catholic High School, Dubai*

PORTION FOR YEAR 8 ENTRANCE TEST

Reading

Comprehension : Questions on extracts from fiction (imaginative/not real) or non-fiction (real or factual) texts will be given to assess comprehension and understanding of ideas, events, situations, characters, vocabulary, grammar, punctuation.

Writer's use of language and literary techniques to create various effects.

Questions will focus on:

- Identifying and explaining main ideas
- Summarising ideas using own words
- Deducing and inferring information, ideas, characters' feelings, thoughts, reasons for actions with evidence from the texts.
- Justifying inferences with evidence from the texts.
- Expressing opinions and preferences about characters ,situations, events with evidence from the texts.
- Justifying opinions and viewpoints with reasons and evidence.
- Explaining the meaning of words from context.
- Analysing writer's use of figurative language - simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration with evidence
- Awareness of writer's purpose in using grammar for specific effects.
- Awareness of writer's use of varied sentence lengths and sentence types for effect .
- Awareness of use of a range of punctuation for intended effect .
- Awareness of layout and presentational features used in different forms of writing
- Awareness of writer's use of language and literary techniques to create effects

Writing

Writing questions will focus on a topic.

Writing questions will focus on any of the following :-

- *Writing about personal experiences; autobiographical recounts.*
- *Writing journal entry or diary entries, describing their experiences, their thoughts, feelings about a given situation.*
- *Letter writing - formal and informal letters*
- *Writing descriptions of a room, a place, a person, an event*
- *Writing arguments for or against a given topic expressing views*
- *Writing to advice; Writing to persuade*
- *Travel writing*

Writing questions will assess pupils ability to:-

- communicate variety of ideas, descriptive details, informative details;
- organise ideas into meaningful sentences; paragraphs; use appropriate connectives
- use accurate grammar, punctuation, spelling

Handwriting

- Neat, legible joined handwriting