**Language Arts 9 Exam Outline**

**Section 1: Reading Comprehension (Article) –** for this section you will read an article and complete a written response.

Part A – Written Response (10 points)

**Section 2: The Outsiders**

Part A – Multiple Choice Questions (15 points)

Part B – Quotation Identification (15 points) – There will be five quotes from the novel. You will choose **three** and identify the speaker and significance (what it means and why it is important to the story) for each quote.

**Section 3: Short Story –** for this section you will read a short story and answer multiple choice questions and short answer questions.

Part A – Multiple Choice Questions (8 points)

Part B – Short Answer (10 points)

Part C – Short Answer – Theme (10 points)

**Section 4: Poetry**

Part A – Multiple Choice Questions (7 points)

Part B – Multiple Choice Questions – Figurative Language (10 points)

**Section 4: Demand Writing - Personal Essay**

Part A – Personal Essay (15 points) – You will write a personal essay on a given topic (min. 2-3 double spaced pages)

**How do I study for this exam?**

English exams are traditionally the most difficult exams to study for because they rarely require the memorization of material. English exams are skills based, so your best bet is to practice your reading and writing skills.

* Answer the comprehension practice questions on The Outsiders that are attached to this sheet.
* Know the speaker, context and significance of The Outsiders quotations that are attached to this sheet. Be able to write your response in paragraph form.
* Practice writing responses that incorporate quotations – remember that a quotation needs to be followed up with a sentence to indicate how it links to your response.
* Study figures of speech: you will need to know and be able to identify these in a poem for the poem analysis.

***The Outsiders* Comprehension Questions:**  Use your notes and the in-class texts to help you answer the questions.

1. How does Ponyboy feel about his older brother Darry? How do his feelings change over the course of the novel?

2. What does Dally do to Cherry Valance at the drive-in movie? How does she react to this?

3. How does Darry treat Ponyboy? How does he treat Sodapop? Why is he this way?

4. How did Bob die? Why was he killed?

5. Describe Ponyboy and Johnny’s escape plan.

6. What are the Greasers most known for? Describe how they look and act.

7. Describe Johnny’s relationship with his parents. How does he feel about them coming to see him in the hospital?

8. Why does Cherry agree to help the Greasers by becoming a spy for them?

9. Describe the events of the fire in the church. Why did the boys go into the church? What does this show the reader about them Pony, Johnny, and Dally?

10. Describe Dallas Winton using multiple quotes from the novel. How does he treat others?

11. Why could Ponyboy, Johnny, and Dally be considered heroes?

12. How does Ponyboy feel about his brother Sodapop?

13. Why doesn’t Randy want to fight in the rumble? What does he say about it?

14. Why does Ponyboy feel he and his gang don’t belong with Tim Sheperd’s gang and the Brumley boys?

15. What does Two-Bit say keeps Darry from being a Soc?

16. What did Johnny want the boys to get for him in the hospital? Why were these things important?

17. Why did Ponyboy and Cherry get into an argument towards the end of the novel?

18. Why was Dally so upset about the death of Johnny? What does it show the reader?

19. How did Dallas Winston die? Describe the situation.

20. What message did Johnny leave in the book?

21. Why do you think Ponyboy’s life was still troubled after the court hearing?

22. List multiple possible themes of The Outsiders. Justify why you think this with evidence from the text.

**Quotation Identification Practice**

**Quotation Identification Practice –**State the speaker and significance (what it means and why it is important to the story) for each quote.

1. “It’s okay… We aren’t in the same class. Just don’t forget that some of us watch the sunset too.”
2. “We couldn’t get along without him. We needed Johnny as much as he needed the gang. And for the same reason.”
3. “We saw the same sunset.”
4. “You greasers have a different set of values. You’re more emotional. We’re sophisticated – cool to the point of not feeling anything.”
5. “If you can picture a little dark puppy that had been kicked too many times and is lost in a crowd of strangers, you'll have Johnny.”
6. “Things are rough all over.”
7. “Y’all were heroes from the beginning. You didn’t just turn all of a sudden.”
8. “Stay gold, Ponyboy. Stay gold.”
9. “Greasers will still be greasers and Socs will still be Socs. Sometimes I think it’s the ones in the middle that are really the lucky stiffs.”
10. “Maybe we couldn’t have Corvairs or madras shirts, but we could have hair.”
11. “I lie to myself all the time. But I never believe me.”
12. "You can't win, even if you whip us. You'll still be where you were before - at the bottom. And we'll still be the lucky ones with all the breaks. So it doesn't do any good, the fighting and the killing. It doesn't prove a thing. We'll forget it if you win, or if you don't. Greasers will still be greasers and Socs will still be Socs."

**Answering Questions Using Quotations**:

Some reading comprehension questions on the exam require you to answer using a quotation. Neglecting to do this will result in a lower mark. Remember the following when answering a question using a quotation:

1. Use an introductory phrase just before your quotation.
2. Use quotation marks around the words you have used directly from the text.
3. Follow-up the quotation with an explanation of how it supports what you are saying.

**Poetic Terms:**

Familiarize yourself with the following Poetic Terms:

* Alliteration, Assonance, Metaphor, Onomatopoeia, Personification, Simile, Internal Rhyme, Rhyme Scheme, Idiom, Free Verse, Theme, Tone, Hyperbole, Oxymoron, Allusion, Symbolism, Pun, Irony