

# English 9 Exam Outline June 2026

\*Please note that our English exam will be on Thursday, June 4th.

The following Units/Topics will be covered on the exam:

1. Poetry
2. *The Great Gatsby*
3. *Hamlet*
4. Creative Writing (There will be THREE prompts, and you will complete ONE).
5. Essay Writing (There will be TWO options, and you will have to complete ONE. The options will be connected to *The Great Gatsby* or *Hamlet*).

## Poetry - Section:

- Please make sure you are **familiar with, can identify, and provide an example of ALL** of the following **Figurative Language** terms:
  1. Simile
  2. Metaphor
  3. Imagery
  4. Personification
  5. Hyperbole
  6. Symbolism (*\*Labeled as “symbol” on the PowerPoint in class pages*)
  7. Allusion
- Please make sure you are **familiar with, can identify and provide an example of ALL** of the following **Sound Devices & Vocabulary Terms\***:
  1. Rhythm
  2. Rhyme
  3. Repetition
  4. Assonance
  5. Consonance
  6. Onomatopoeia
  7. Alliteration
  8. Stanza\*
  9. Couplet\*
  10. Quatrain\*

- Please make sure you are **familiar with, can identify and provide an example of ALL** of the following **Poetic Forms**:
  1. Narrative Poem
  2. Lyrical Poem
  3. Haiku
  4. Sonnet
  5. Limerick
  6. Free Verse
  7. Poetry Slam (Spoken Word Poetry)
  8. Ode

### **Hamlet - Section:**

- You should **review and be familiar with** the following:
  1. Review and familiarize yourself with **all of the questions from Acts 1-5**.
  2. You should know **all of the key character traits** of the following characters in the play: **Claudius, Gertrude, Guildenstern, Fortinbras (young), Hamlet, Horatio, Laertes, Marcellus, Ophelia, Polonius, and Rosencrantz**.
  3. You should be able to **explain some of the motifs** (recurring elements) with the play.
  4. You should be familiar with and able to **explain all seven (7) of the themes** that occur in the play. (*Ex. Revenge vs Justice; Action vs Inaction; Fate vs Free Will; Appearance vs Reality; Loyalty vs Betrayal; Madness; and Corruption*).
  5. Review and familiarize yourself with **all key quotes/soliloquies** from the following characters in the play: **Claudius, Hamlet, Horatio, Laertes, and Ophelia**
  6. What is the **significance of Hamlet's "To be, or not to be" soliloquy**?
  7. What is the **significance of the Ghost of Hamlet's father** telling him he was **murdered by Claudius**?
  8. What is the **significance of the "Mouse Trap" play** Hamlet had the actors perform? Why was it so important for this to take place **in front of Claudius**?
  9. You should know how each of the characters **specifically die** (if they do) in the play.
  10. You should be familiar with how the play **starts and ends**.
  11. I would also recommend **reading the play one more time**.

## **The Great Gatsby Section:**

### **Focus: Quick understanding checks**

- Character relationships
- Major plot points
- Symbol meanings
- Key facts about Gatsby's life

### **Focus: Basic comprehension and key details**

- **Characters** (Gatsby, Daisy, Tom, Nick, Jordan, Myrtle, George)
- **Plot events** (parties, reunion, accident, ending)
- **Settings** (East Egg, West Egg, Valley of Ashes)
- **Symbols** (green light, eyes of Dr. T. J. Eckleburg)
- **Themes** (American Dream, wealth, illusion vs. reality)

### **Focus: Deeper analysis**

- Gatsby and the American Dream
- Daisy's character and values
- Wealth and morality
- Illusion vs. reality
- Explain symbolism (green light, Valley of Ashes)
- Role of the narrator
- Basic quote analysis
- Characterization

### **Focus: Full analysis**

- Gatsby as a tragic hero
- Social class and inequality
- Symbolism and theme development
- Love vs Illusion
- The Power of the Past

### **Creative Writing Section:**

- You will be given **three (3) options** to choose from, and you will have to complete **one creative writing prompt** in detail.
- The prompt may be connected to any of the **following themes** covered in our Creative Writing Unit:
  - A. **Character Development** (Developing interesting, multi-dimensional characters)
  - B. **World-Building** (Crafting settings that feel alive and immersive)
  - C. **Plot Twists and Conflict** (Building tension and surprising twists)
  - D. **Voice and Style** (Developing a unique writing voice)

### **Essay Writing Section:**

- You will be given **two (2) options**, and you will need to respond to **ONE** of them for your essay question.
- The essay question will be connected to the play *Hamlet* OR the novel *The Great Gatsby*
- You will need to write a **4-5 paragraph response** that covers the essay question in detail and is **grammatically correct**, with proper **punctuation** and correct **spelling**.