

# ***Dracula*: Suggestions for Revision**

## **The Exam**

In the exam you must answer **one** question on *Dracula* (and one on Chaucer).

You will have the **choice between two questions**. One specifies a passage and requests a detailed discussion of the passage, asking you to relate it to your reading of the novel. The other is an essay question on a character, theme or on narrative style; it asks you to select one or two passages to explore in your discussion. If you answer this question you must ensure that you *specify the relevant passage(s)* clearly at the start of your essay. You *must* pay attention to and respond to the **two bullet points**; they are designed to prompt you to address all of the relevant assessment objectives. In this paper, *A03 is dominant*.

The exam is **an hour and a half** long. You must spend **45 minutes on each question** and no more. Do not make the mistake of spending longer on one question than the other – they are worth an equal amount of marks. Devote up to 7 minutes to planning your work.

The exam is an **open text exam** – you may take your text in with you, but it must only have minimal annotation in it. You may underline/highlight/circle as much as you like and include lots of cross-references (page numbers in the margin), but actual prose must be limited to single words or brief phrases. You must not write on any blank pages in the novel. Here is what OCR say in their specification:

*'Texts used in the examination room may contain only brief marginal annotation, within the body of the text itself (i.e. excluding any other areas of the book, such as end-papers). Such annotation should not amount to more than cross-references and/or the glossing of individual words or phrases. Highlighting and underlining are permitted. Annotations going beyond individual words or phrases, or amounting to aides-memoire or notes towards the planning of essays, are not allowed. Insertion of pages, loose sheets, adhesive labels or any other form of notes or additional material is not allowed.'*

## Preparing for the Exam

- Re-read the **text** and **all notes** that you have made on it.
- Re-read **all essays** that you have written and all of your teacher's comments on them.
- (Re-)read **all handouts** that you have been given and **all critical material** – essays by academics, introductory material, biographical material on the author, etc etc.
- Add to your knowledge by researching the novel on the **internet**. You can use resources like JSTOR or simply google the novel and/or author to bring up a host of critical essays and opinions.
- Make notes on and/or **find quotations** for the following characters and themes (and any others you wish to include). For each character or theme, find two quotations from the text (A03), two from critics (AO4) and one piece of relevant contextual material (AO5). Remember that, whilst AOs 4 & 5 are important, A03 is dominant.

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EAST vs WEST

MINA

REVERSE COLONISATION

LUCY

FOREIGNNESS / THE OTHER

VAN HELSING

THE GOTHIC

DRACULA

LIGHT & DARK

SEWARD

MADNESS

ARTHUR

SLEEP & DREAMING

QUINCY MORRIS

MEN & MASCULINITY

WOMEN

- **Practise writing timed essays – both passage-based and essay style questions.** This is one of the *best* things you can do to prepare yourself. If you are not used

to and comfortable with writing in timed conditions, you *will* produce essays of an inferior quality. If you are experienced at writing timed essays, your marks *will* go up. *This can make the difference between grades.* Below are some titles, or you can come up with your own if none of them covers a topic you wish to explore.

### *Essay Questions*

- 1.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss Stoker's presentation of Arthur Holmwood (Lord Godalming) in the novel.
- 2.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss Stoker's presentation of Qunicy Morris in the novel.
- 3.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss Stoker's presentation of Jonathan Harker in the novel.
- 4.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss Stoker's presentation of Dr Seward in the novel.
- 5.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss the role and significance of Renfield in the novel.
- 6.) Considering in detail on or two passages, explore the theme of sleep and dreaming in the novel.
- 7.) Considering in detail on or two passages, explore presentation of women in the novel.
- 8.) Considering in detail on or two passages, explore the relationship between age and modernity in the novel.
- 9.) Considering in detail on or two passages, explore the relationship between East and West in the novel.
- 10.) Considering in detail on or two passages, discuss the use of narrative methods in the novel.