

Learning objective: How to write a successful Shakespeare essay answer.

Starter:

Remind students that when answering questions on Shakespeare text the question will come under one of four categories: character; language; themes; performance.

Introduction:

In order to revise essay writing we'll imagine we have this question for the test:

Imagine you are directing a class performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. What advice would you give the actor playing Bottom in Act 5 Scene 1?

Tell students the importance of underlining key words in the question.

Complete a plan for up to 10 minutes to order thoughts.

When doing the plan underline or highlight the quotations you want to use in your answer.

Tell students the importance of referring to the text and using quotations throughout the essay.

Development:

As a class prepare a plan for the above question. Give students time first of all to attempt the plan themselves before discussing. Remind students they can either do a spider diagram or a bullet point list. They should aim for an introduction, 5 paragraphs (with a point per paragraph) and a conclusion.

Reminder of PEA. 'I would advise the actor to pronounce each word carefully and look around at the audience when he says, 'Die, die, die, die,' to emphasise that Bottom wants to make his part in the play last as long as possible. Repeating the words in this way will show the audience how ridiculous Bottom is being because his character can not be in much pain if he has to keep saying the same word over and over again.

Plenary:

Check around class that everyone understands what they need to do once they are in the test by answering a quick quiz. What are the four areas of question type? How do they use their time? What should be underlined or highlighted? What format of paragraph should they follow?