

# 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE (HONORS) ENGLISH FALL 2019 STUDY GUIDE

## General Advice

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- Review your notes, handouts, and graded assessments. You can also revisit the “What Did I Miss?” link on the class website to refamiliarize yourself with the things we have done all semester.
- Consider having a study session. You would be surprised how a simple conversation about content can solidify certain points and/or jog your memory about others.
- Be sure to get some sleep the evening before.

## Exam Format

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**Multiple Choice:** Approximately 80%

**Constructed Response:** Approximately 20%

NOTE: This exam is long, and you need to maintain a steady pace. If you don't know an answer, make an educated guess, mark it for potential review, and *move on*. Go back to marked questions once you have completed the exam.

## Overview

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You will need to apply what you have learned to new passages, but you will also be tested on the main ideas, themes, and characters from the following texts:

*House of the Scorpion*

*The Odyssey*

*Fahrenheit 451*

The following sections of this study guide provide additional, more specific items

## Literature

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Know and be able to apply:

- Author's Purpose (e.g., persuade, inform, entertain, explain, express emotion)
- Mood and Tone
- Theme
- Motif
- Paradox
- Irony
- Allusion
- Epic poems (and their characteristics)
- Stages of Hero's Journey (and how to apply them)
- Direct and indirect characterization
- Static versus Dynamic
- Flat versus Round (i.e., Complex)
- Connotation versus Denotation
- Narrator and Speaker
- Point of View
- Imagery
- Sound Devices (e.g., consonance, assonance, alliteration, rhyme, onomatopoeia, repetition)
- Figurative language

*Simile*

*Metaphor*

*Personification*

*Hyperbole*

## Research

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What makes a good research question  
Best use of graphic/visual aids  
Evaluating sources  
MLA Formatting

## Essay Writing

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What makes a good thesis statement  
Identifying a thesis statement  
Organization

## Generally Applicable and Miscellaneous

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Using context clues to determine meaning  
Determining main ideas  
Making inferences  
Summarizing  
Drawing conclusions  
Identifying supporting details (and lack thereof)  
Transitioning from paragraph to paragraph  
Passive versus active voice  
Parallel structure (see below)

## Parallel Structure

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### ***What is Parallel Structure?***

Single words, multi-word phrases and clauses can be made parallel by ensuring each item is equal. Examples of parallel structure include multiple gerunds or -ing verbals that function as nouns, past participles, infinitive phrases (to be) and complete clauses that include a subject and predicate. Never mix and match when using parallel structure to create a list or series. Here is an example of parallel structure paired with a non-parallel construction.

### **Not parallel**

On his day off, he did this, this, and did that.

### **Parallel**

On his day off, he did this, this, and that.

### **Not Parallel**

Joel packed sneakers, sweatpants, and put in three pairs of socks.

### **Parallel**

Joel packed sneakers, sweatpants, and three pairs of socks.

### **Not Parallel**

Mary likes hiking, biking and to go running.

### **Parallel**

Mary likes hiking, biking and running.

### **Not Parallel**

The salesman said the car was fast, sporty, and didn't use a lot of gas.

### **Parallel**

The salesman said the car was fast, sporty and economical.

**Source:** <http://www.grammar.net/parallel-structure>

## Other Information

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The test will be multiple choice plus an essay. If you think you will need more than one page for your essay, please bring an extra sheet of lined paper. You should not need more than one extra page! Please also bring a pencil or two.

You may bring one handwritten notecard, no larger than 3X5 with any notes. You may also bring a sheet of paper containing an **outline** of your essay. An outline should be a structured list of points—not fully-constructed sentences and/or paragraph. I will check all materials before you begin to determine if they are appropriate.

Here is the essay question so that you can develop an outline if you choose to do so:

Works of literature are compelling for many reasons—engaging storylines, provocative characters, exotic settings. Ultimately though, literature is indispensable for culture because it helps us to examine the human condition and provides us opportunities to ask fundamental questions about life.

With that in mind, write a well-structured, focused, coherent essay that examines how the experiences (think journey) of **TWO** different characters illustrate particular contemporary (modern/relating to our times) social values. In other words, how do these characters reflect what we, as a society, think is important?

You are not required to choose main characters, but **you must choose characters from two different texts.**

Texts to choose from:

- *Warriors Don't Cry*
- *House of the Scorpion*
- *The Odyssey*
- *Nacho Libre*
- *Fahrenheit 451*

Good essays will include:

- A clear, focused thesis
- Specific examples for support (direct quotes not necessary)
- Insightful analysis (not vague generalizations or excessive summary)
- Clear organization