**N5 Exam Advice for Pupils**

**Critical Essay Problems**

* **Irrelevance**
* **Too short – penalty will be applied**
* **Too much time spent on Scottish Text element**
* **Memorised responses**
* **Genre infringements**
* **Line of thought (or lack of it)**
* **Structure (or lack of)**
* **Too little reference back to the task (better to have ‘clunky’ reference to it than none at all)**

**Suggestions**

* **Start with the Critical Essay**
* **Resist the temptation to pick up the pen. Read all of the relevant tasks first.**
* **ALWAYS write the number of the task in the margin. Apparently it annoys the marker to have to work it out.**
* **PLAN!!!!!!! Five minutes spent now will be well worth it.**
* **ALWAYS write a few sentences about the text you have chosen under the introduction. You cannot assume that the examiner is familiar with your text.**
* **Markers will be positive. They will give marks for what has been written but the more task focused you are the more marks you will get.**
* **Your essay should be ideas driven NOT technique driven.**

**TA:**

* **The eight mark question should be answered using bullet points.**
* **2 x commonality – 2 x primary text – 4x secondary text**
* **It is always better to put down too many points than too few**

**Close Reading**

* **Read the question carefully**
* **Always answer using bullet points**
* **Use too many points rather than too few**
* **Find as many ways of answering the question as possible**