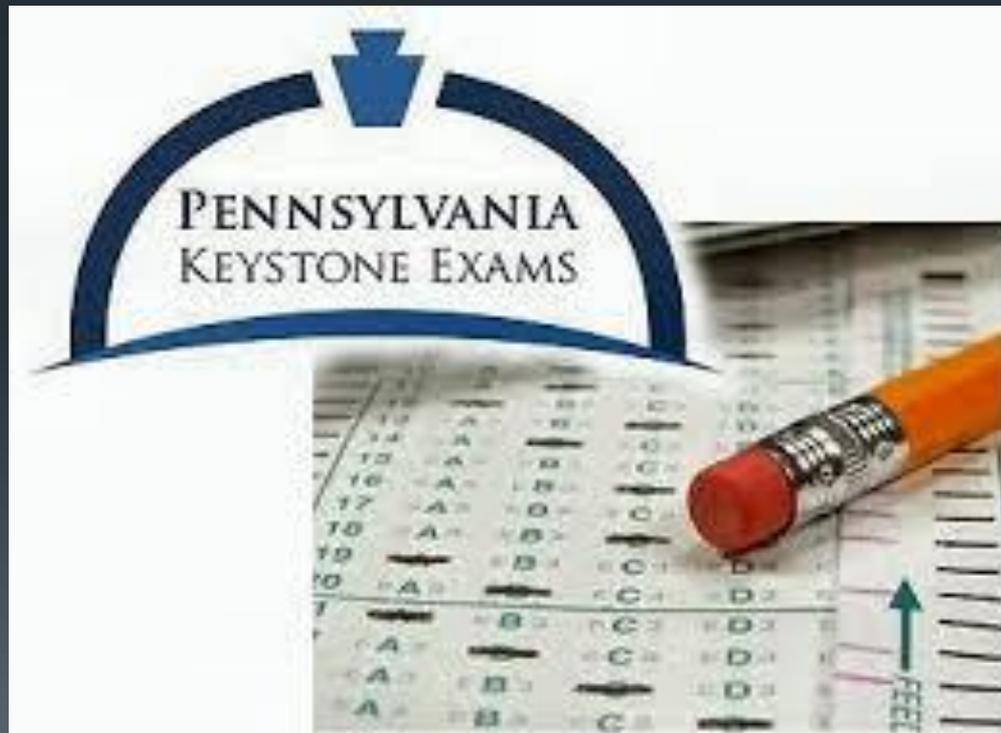




# KEYSTONE EXAMS

Focusing on Literature



# What is it?

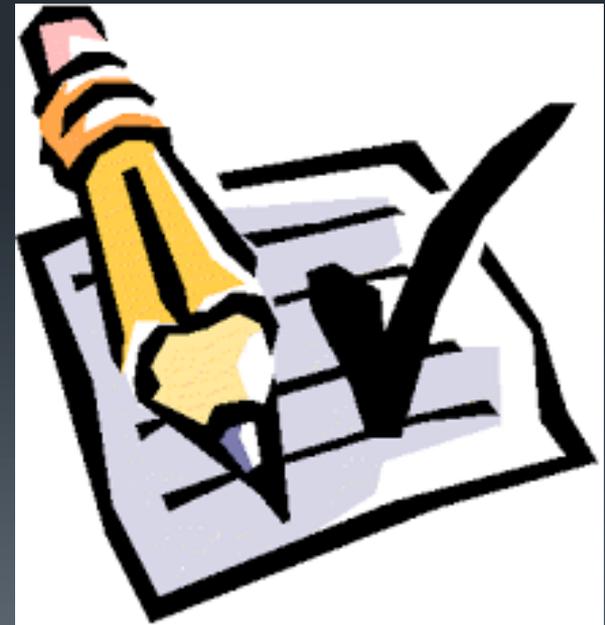
- Keystone Exams are “End of Course” Assessments
- Designed to evaluate proficiency in academic content.
- Students must demonstrate proficiency on the following exams in order to graduate.

# Why Do I Have to Take This Test?

- *State* Requirement (Replaces PSSA)
- *Graduation* Requirement
- Provides Feedback to the Teacher

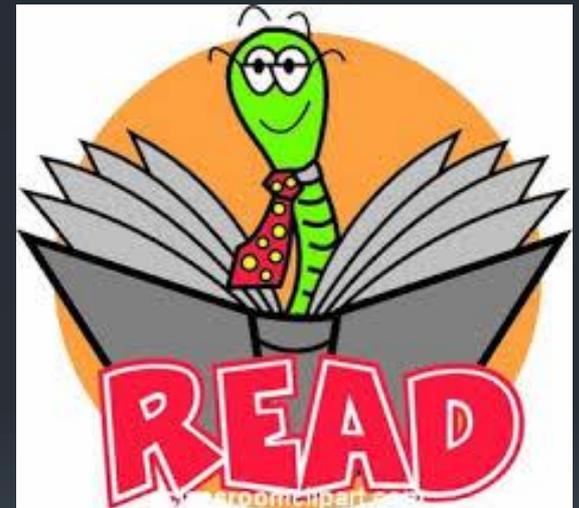
# What Types of Questions are on the Test?

- Multiple Choice
  - 60% - 75% of total score
- Constructed Response
  - 25% - 40% of total score



# Primary Purpose of Literature Exam

- Make sure students can read and understand a text
- Focuses on:
  - Famous Speeches (JFK)
  - Passages from Teen Novels
  - Poetry
  - Classic Literature
  - Short Story Collections
  - Government Pamphlets



# What Does the Multiple Choice Look Like?

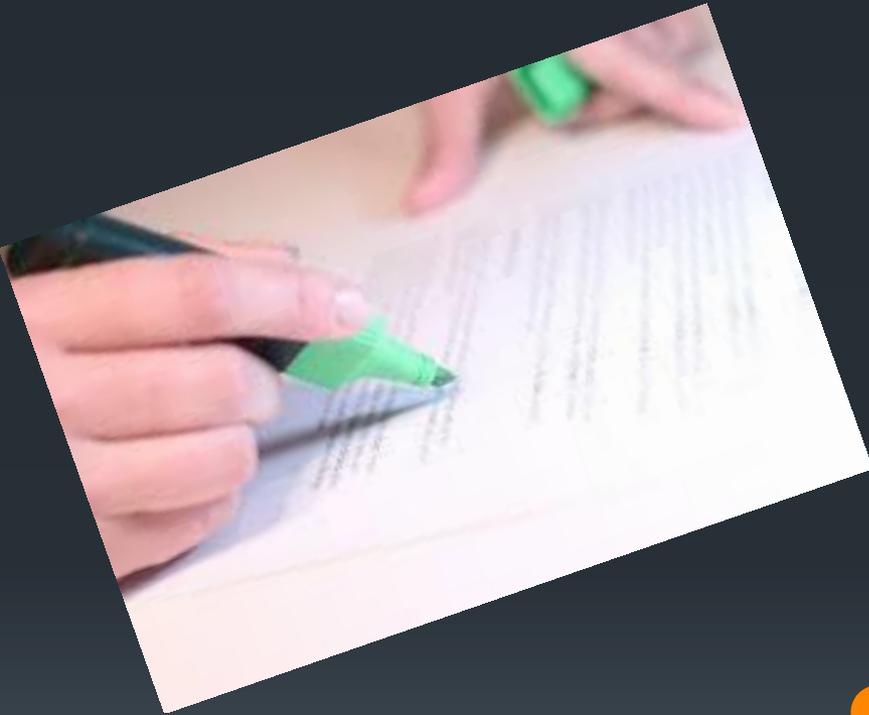
- Typically 2 -3 reading passages per module
- Each passage will contain around 8 questions
- You will need to utilize the passage to help you answer the questions
- Main focus – Do you understand what you are reading?



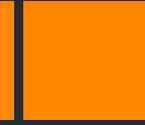
# Before Reading Strategies

# Tips for Multiple Choice – Before Reading

- Read the questions before you read the passage
  - DO NOT read the answer choices
- Highlight key words in the questions so you understand what you are being asked to do:
  - Main Idea
  - Compare
  - Author's Purpose
  - Theme

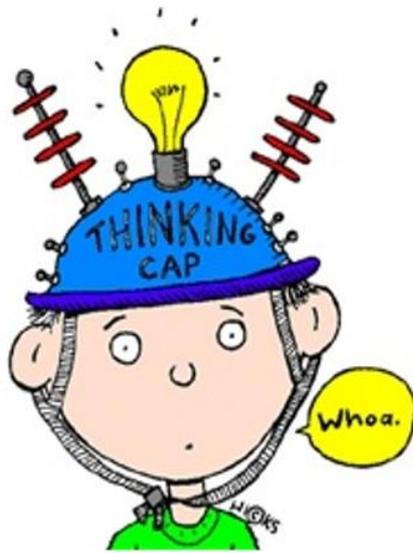


# During Reading Strategies



# Tips for Multiple Choice – During Reading

- Read the text at the top of the page or footnotes.
- Chunk the material - stop frequently
- Restate the main idea/key point of that chunk in your mind.
- Don't understand? REREAD IT until you can.
- Label it. Highlight or make a margin note of the main idea/key point.



# After Reading Strategies

# Tips for Multiple Choice – After Reading

- FIRST OF ALL, ***DON'T TRUST YOUR MEMORY!!***
- Go back to the passage and look for the answer



# Tips for Multiple Choice – After Reading

- **Pretend** it's not multiple choice – cover the answer choices
  - **Predict** what you think the answer is
  - Uncover answers – see if your prediction is there!
  - If not, **go back to the passage** to help you find the correct answer

# Where's the Answer

- **In the text:** Some questions are “right there” on the page. To find these **literal** questions, simply go back to the text.
- **Between me and the text:** Even if the question isn't literal, support or evidence for your inference is in the text. Go to the section that relates to that question to make a supportable inference.
- Finding the Main Idea
  - Usually in the **first paragraph**
  - Reference the Title
- Finding the **Theme**
  - Ask yourself, “What did I learn?”



# Eliminate Distractors

- Return to the section of the passage
- **Fact Check** – go back to the passage and then eliminate all answers that are obviously incorrect
- If two answers seem correct, **reread the question** to double check what you are specifically looking for
- If two answers are **opposites**, one is **usually** the correct answer
- Be Careful – some answers are **partially true** – make sure to read the entire answer

# I Still Have No Idea....

- Research has proven that our *first instincts* are usually *correct* – don't second guess yourself.
- If you cannot figure out the answer by using the text and strategies within a few minutes, *go with your first impression*. Don't leave it blank.
- *Circle any numbers* of questions you were unsure about so you can go back and revisit the question later

# Remember!

- The multiple choice section counts for the majority of your score.
- Careless errors, skipped questions, and smudges can be very damaging.
- The difference between basic and proficient boils down to missing just one less question!



# The Constructed Response

# How Do I Answer the Constructed Response?

- A **Good Response** will
  - Answer the **entire question**
  - **Use specific examples** from the text to support reasoning
  - **Extend beyond** the text/insight
- Remember: The constructed response **is not a writing task**. It is a comprehension task. Clear & concise answer show that the answerers/writers understand what they read and that they can make connections.

# QASI

- **QUESTION RESTATEMENT**: Use and restate the question when answering the prompt. (This shows a familiarity with the text & also shows the graders that the student is aware of what is being asked)
- **ANSWER**: Answer all parts of the question
- **SUPPORT**: Most crucial. Direct support either in the form of quotations, paraphrases or summaries. Use a transitional word to start.
- **INSIGHT**- Offer insight – show connections and write about those connections

# Keystone Rubric

Keystone Equivalent	Score Explanations
<b>3</b> <b>Advanced</b> <b>(100-90%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response provides a clear, complete, and accurate answer to the task</li><li>• Response provides relevant and specific evidence from the reading to support ideas</li><li>• Response exhibits skillful use of language and is free of most errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics</li></ul>
<b>2</b> <b>Proficient</b> <b>(89-70%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response provides a partial answer to the task</li><li>• Response provides limited or vague evidence from the reading to support ideas and may include inaccuracies</li><li>• Exhibits adequate but inconsistent facility in the use of language and contains some errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics</li></ul>
<b>1</b> <b>Basic</b> <b>(69-50%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response provides a minimal answer to the task OR response relates minimally to the task</li><li>• Response provides little or no evidence from the passage to support ideas and may include inaccuracies</li><li>• Displays developing skill in the use of language and contains an accumulation of errors in grammar, usage, and mechanics</li></ul>
<b>0</b> <b>Below Basic</b> <b>(49-0%)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Response is totally incorrect or irrelevant</li><li>• Response provides no evidence from the passage to support ideas</li><li>• Displays fundamental flaws in the use of language and contains errors in grammar, usage, or mechanics that persistently interfere with meaning</li></ul>

# On Test Day



# Be Prepared Physically

- Get a good night's sleep before the test.
- The morning of the test, *eat a breakfast* that includes protein: eggs, bacon, peanut butter, cheese, yogurt, tofu, etc.
- BE ON TIME.



# Be Prepared Mentally

- Being nervous or not caring, *ruins your performance*
- Be competitive with the test makers, not intimidated by them
- Remember, the passages were not chosen to entertain you. *Keep yourself engaged* through active reading, highlighting, and writing margin notes.