



ENGLISH ASSESSMENT

Liam

DATE: 30th September 2024

Background

English is not just another subject on the school timetable: like Maths, it is an essential foundation for future success and happiness. How we write is how we think: muddiness in one tends to show up as muddiness in the other – and vice versa. It has always been important to learn how to express yourself; in an age in which writing is increasingly automated, a telling phrase or striking choice of words is especially arresting.

At ARKA, we use the National Curriculum as a framework to check for gaps in our pupils' foundations and to identify their level in relation to their age. We also look for how much facility our pupils have with the English language to offer suggestions for improvement.

Even world-famous writers look back on their early work and wince. An exact writing level can never be captured in a single assessment and good writing takes years to establish. Our assessment philosophy is ongoing throughout a child's relationship with ARKA.

Our learning plans are then tailored to each pupil's strengths and weaknesses as well as their specific goal (e.g. if a student is approaching 11+ we will ensure specific exam preparation is included as appropriate).

Our assessments

We have used our decades of experience in the English education system to devise appropriate assessments.

Depending on the age of the child, these may consist of both written and oral responses.

We are assessing the three core areas of English foundational skills: reading, writing and grammar. We break a child's mastery of these skills down into:

- MASTERED
- COMPETENT
- INSECURE / UNCERTAIN

This breakdown mirrors the assessments done in most Primary schools as well as SATs, 11+ and is the foundation beneath GCSE too.

Although our 11+ programme consists of some focus on exam technique, our priority is to develop mastery in foundational skills – rather than a short term but superficial facility with spotting how to gain marks in particular questions.

Reading

Liam's fluency when reading the passage aloud was: COMPETENT.

Liam's reading of the text was wonderfully expressive.

Liam's general understanding of an age-appropriate text was: COMPETENT.

We break down understanding into the following areas:

1. Liam's ability to retrieve information is COMPETENT. He was able to locate information from the text to correctly answer the questions being asked.
2. Liam's ability to reason meaning in a text is INSECURE. He was unable to use inference to answer the question.

Writing

Liam's writing is COMPETENT.

We break down a child's writing at this age into the following areas:

1. Accuracy: COMPETENT
2. Presentation: COMPETENT
3. Language & Style: UNCERTAIN
4. Imagination & Joy: COMPETENT

Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

Liam's command of spelling, punctuation and grammar is COMPETENT.

"Seven Deadly Sins"

These are the areas that most affect a child's ability to impress and be understood in their writing.

Liam needs to master,

- Capital letters
- Apostrophes
- Run-on sentences

Other errors noted

- Spelling

General comments & Recommended Study Programme

Liam came across as hard working and engaged. His reading of the passage was wonderfully expressive. Our programme will focus on giving him mastery over his foundational English skills of spellings, punctuation and grammar. This will allow Liam to flourish even further and gain confidence in his English skills.