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KEY STAGE

3

LEVELS

4–7

English tests

Subject-specific guidance

Shakespeare

The Shakespeare paper should be administered in one session.

- 45 minutes (including reading time)

Information about the Shakespeare paper

- The *Shakespeare paper* comprises one task. The task assesses pupils' reading and understanding of the play which they have studied in class. The task is a test of prepared reading.
- Each paper includes one task based on one of the four areas of assessment: ideas, themes and issues; character and motivation; the language of the text; and the text in performance.
- The *Shakespeare paper* includes the task pupils have to respond to and two extracts from the set sections pupils will have studied in class from one of the three plays for 2007: *Richard III*; *The Tempest*; and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Administering the Shakespeare paper

- Ensure that each pupil has the correct *Shakespeare paper*, based on the play that they have studied in class, and a *Shakespeare paper answer booklet*.
- Pupils should write their name, the name of the play they have studied and the name of the school on their answer booklet and on any additional lined paper used in their response.
- Read the instructions on the cover of the *Shakespeare paper* to pupils.
- Remind pupils that the *Shakespeare paper* assesses their reading and understanding of the play, so while pupils should express their ideas clearly, aspects of writing, such as spelling, will not be assessed. Draw pupils' attention to the two extracts from the two sections of the play they have studied in class, which are printed in the test paper after the task. Pupils should refer to both extracts in their responses.
- Give pupils appropriate time reminders during the test, such as halfway through and 5 minutes before the end.
- Explain to pupils that if they have any problems, they may ask for help, but they cannot have the task explained to them or have any words read to them.

2007

Administering the Shakespeare paper continued

- If pupils have spare time at the end of the test, they may be told to check their work carefully.

For information only: Some of the 2007 test papers have been printed with bar codes and computer recognition marks. This is for a trial in electronic marking, which will take place after the 2007 test series. You should administer the tests in the usual way.