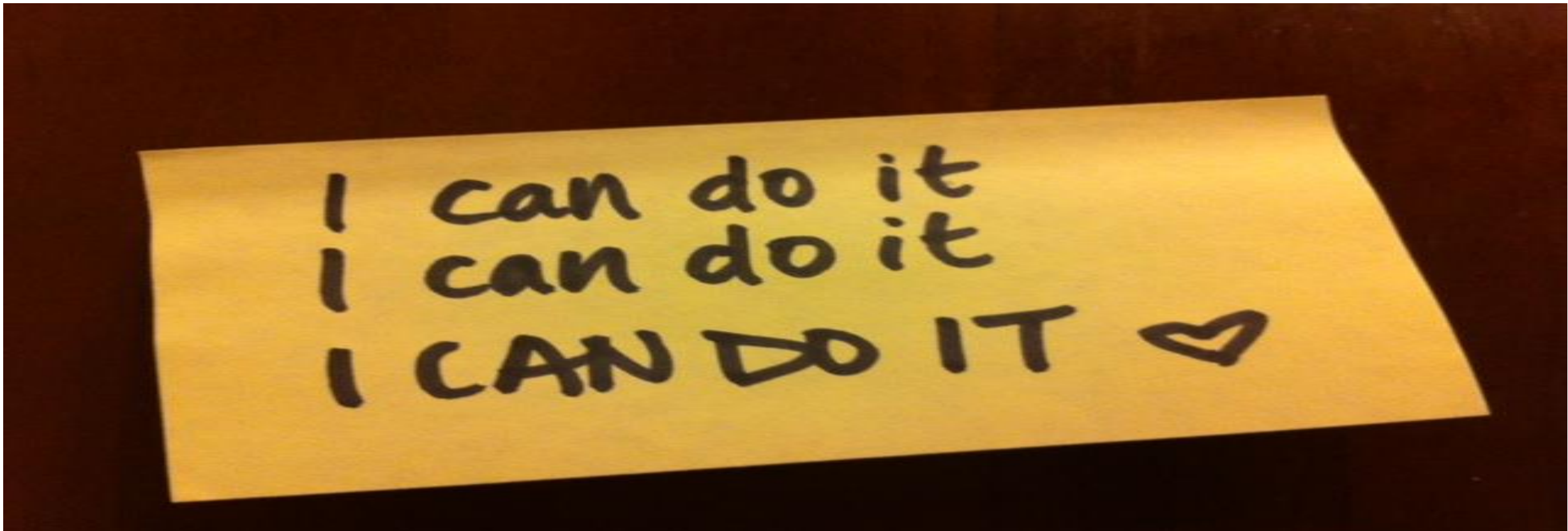


Breaking Down Exam Questions – Year 9





How to break down exam questions

1. Look for key words to help focus on what's being asked - **tip, quite often key words are in bold!** – highlight or underline them!
2. Make sure that you're confident that you understand the question
3. Remember, there are different types of questions to look out for
 - Direct questions – e.g. Is Romeo & Juliet a tragedy or a romance?
 - Discussion questions – e.g. Romeo & Juliet is a tragedy – do you agree or disagree?
 - A general question/instruction – Write about Romeo's decisions in Romeo and Juliet

Looking for key words – Reading Questions

- Read the question & look for and underline/highlight key words
- Look for what the examiner is asking for e.g. ‘What do you learn about...’ or ‘What do you understand about...’
- Look for subject matter to focus on e.g. the writer’s feelings or atmosphere/tension
- Make sure you’re reading the right text e.g. ‘...in Extract 1’ or ‘...in Romeo and Juliet’
- Is there a focus to look at e.g. ‘...how the writer uses language’ or ‘presentational features’?



Looking for key words – writing questions

- Think in terms of Form, Audience, Type of Writing, Subject

Write a letter to your local MP persuading them that more leisure facilities are needed for teenagers in Dewsbury



Identify **FORM, TYPE, AUDIENCE & SUBJECT** in these questions

- Write a speech that persuades the head of your school to abolish school uniform
- Write an article for your school magazine informing students about an event and what they can do to help
- Write a monologue to be performed to elderly people explaining how it feels to be a teenager in the 21st century