**National 5/Higher Homework Task: Preparing for RUAE**

The best way to prepare for *Paper I: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation* is to be a reader, to read regularly from a variety of sources to build up your general knowledge, your vocabulary and your ability to understand and follow complex texts. You should be reading a couple of articles a week from a challenging broadsheet newspaper.

It is crucial that you engage with what you are reading, asking questions about the text and looking closely at *what* is written and *how* it is written

The following exercise is one to carry out *at least once* a week to improve your deep reading skills.

**Task**: Choose a newspaper article which interests you from a quality broadsheet. The following websites will provide suitable source material:

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>

<http://www.theguardian.com/observer>

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/opinion/>

<http://www.thetimes.co.uk/tto/opinion/>

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices>

**Read the headline and any sub-heading.**

Before you read, **predict**:

Note down what you think the subject matter of the article is and the stance (tone/attitude) adopted by the writer towards her/his subject matter. You should also be able to work out the purpose of the article (i.e. why it was written)

**Subject Matter:**

**Stance/Tone:**

**Purpose:**

**EVIDENCE:**

**Now** read the news article carefully, thinking about what you are reading.

Consider the **3 key questions** readers should ask of any new text:

What did I like/dislike about it?

What does it remind me of?

What puzzles me about it?

Identify a likely **audience** for this article and provide reasons/evidence to support your answer.

**Summarise** the main ideas in the article in bullet points. Aim for one bullet point (a phrase or a sentence) for each paragraph.

**Highlight or circle all the words you do not know.** Use the context (the words and phrases before and after) to try to work out the meaning.

Identify the writer’s **tone** (his or her attitude) towards the subject matter. Quote to support your answer.

Use your highlighter to pick out a range of **techniques** used by the writer to make their point and convey their purpose.

**Pick out the 2 most effective techniques used**. ***Justify*** your selection.