



Aspire & Challenge

English GCSE

Revision Guidance



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English GCSE Revision Advice

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Thank you for completing the survey on revision in English. The following PowerPoint is designed based on your feedback. Hopefully, this will offer some guidance and clarity for you and your child.

Good luck, Year 11!

Best wishes,

The English Department



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Exam board: Edexcel Exam Dates

Dates of exams:

- **Monday 13th May (am)** English Literature Paper 1 Shakespeare and Post 1914 Drama (1 hour 45 minutes)
- **Monday 20th May (am)** English Literature Paper 2 19th Century Novel and Poetry Since 1789 (2 hours 15 minutes)
- **Thursday 23rd May (am)** English Language Paper 1 Fiction and Imaginative Writing (1 hour 45 minutes)
- **Thursday 6th June (am)** English Language Paper 2 Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (2 hours 5 minutes)



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English Literature Paper 1- 1 hour 45 Minutes

- Respond to questions on *Macbeth* (55 mins)- two essays and then *An Inspector Calls*- one essay.
- Find the *Macbeth* question.
- **1. a)** Read the extract carefully and write an essay focusing on how language and structure are used to present a certain theme or character. **(20 marks)** Spend no more than 30 minutes on this section
- **1 b)** Write about the rest of the play in relation to the theme/ character outlined in the question Reference context throughout. **(20 marks)** Spend 25- 30 minutes on this section.
- **7 OR 8**
- Answer one question on *An Inspector Calls* (50 minutes)
- There will be quotation as a starting point for this question. You will be asked to write about the significance of a character or theme across the whole play.



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English Literature Paper 1- How to Revise

How to revise/ prepare:

- ☐ Remind yourself of the plots of both texts/ re-read each text. Draw timelines of key events.
- ☐ Remind yourself of language and structure techniques to look out for in the Macbeth extract.
- ☐ Practise responding to extracts- annotating and forming PETER paragraphs for a number of different extracts.
- ☐ Make sure you are always making clear points that address and answer the question.
- ☐ Mind map ideas for possible themes/ character questions.



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English Literature Paper 1- How to Revise

- ☐ Remind yourself of key quotations for each text- write them on your essay plans and on post-its/ cards for each key theme and character.
- ☐ Revise key points on context for both texts and how they can relate to each part of the play.
- ☐ Display revision notes in your bedroom and around the house.
- ☐ Include your family and friends- ask them to test you on key events from the plays/ characters/ themes.
- ☐ Record yourself answering exam questions verbally. This might give you confidence and remind you of how much you know!



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English Literature Paper 2- 2 hours and 15 minutes

- **PART A: 19th Century Novel**
- **Respond to questions on *A Christmas Carol* OR *Jekyll and Hyde* (55minutes)- two essays.**
- **Section A-** Read the extract carefully and write an essay focusing on how language and structure are used to present a certain theme or character. (20 marks) Spend no more than 30 minutes on this section- 5 minutes reading time and 25 minutes writing.
- **Section B-** Write about the rest of the novel in relation to the theme/ character outlined in the question. (20 marks) Spend 25- 30 minutes on this section.



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English Literature Paper 2- 2 hours and 15 minutes

- **PART B: Poetry**
- **Section A: Respond to the CONFLICT poetry question. Spend approximately 35 minutes on this section.**
- You will be given one question on a named poem from the CONFLICT section, and you will be asked to compare it to another poem from the collection.
- In your paragraphs include:
- Clear COMPARATIVE points focused on the theme outlined in the question
- Analysis of LANGUAGE and STRUCTURE
- Links to CONTEXT



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English Literature Paper 2- 2 hours and 15 minutes

- **PART B: Poetry spend approximately 45 minutes on this section**
- **Section B: write an essay comparing two unseen poems.**
- Keep focused on the question at all times
- Consider the message and ideas presented in each poem
- Write about how each poet uses form, structure and language to communicate these ideas.
- Be comparative throughout. Use language such as: similarly, on the other hand, in addition, moreover, in contrast to this...



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English Literature Paper 2- 2 hours and 15 minutes

How to revise:

- ☐ Re-read A Christmas Carol or Jekyll and Hyde.
- ☐ Create timelines/ bullet point key events.
- ☐ Write lists of possible themes that might come up- mind map how they appear in the texts.
- ☐ Create fact files/ mind maps of key characters and their traits.
- ☐ Practise past paper questions.
- ☐ Have joint revision sessions with other students to help each other learn quotation.
- ☐ Write key quotation on cards/ posters and place somewhere visible.



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English Literature Paper 2- 2 hours and 15 minutes

How to revise:

- ☐ Involve family/ people you live with. Ask them to test you on key themes/ characters/ events/ quotation.
- ☐ For each poem, learn at least three 'flexible' quotations.
- ☐ Mind map key narrative and contextual points about each poem.
- ☐ Record yourself answering exam questions verbally or talking about all the things to look out for in an unseen poem, for example.
- ☐ Remind yourself of key poetic techniques to look out for- form, structure and language.
- ☐ Look at lots of unseen poetry and try to annotate at speed focusing on IDEAS, FORM, LANGUAGE and STRUCTURE.



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English Language Paper – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Exam Structure

Responding to a 19th century fiction text and a piece of imaginative writing.

Question 1 - finding information from the extract; line numbers are given. (1 mark)

Question 2 - finding information from the extract; line numbers are given. (2 marks)

Question 3 - analysing the use of language and structure to create certain effects; line numbers are given (6 marks) PETER paragraphs

Question 4 - evaluating the effectiveness of the writer across the whole text. (15 marks) PEEJ paragraphs

Question 5/6 - imaginative writing piece (40 marks)



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English Language Paper – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Key skills assessed:

- Information retrieval and understanding
- Analysis of language and structure
- Evaluation of writer's skills



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English Language Paper – 1 hour and 45 minutes

What to do to revise:

- ☐ Lots of extract reading and summarising in timed conditions (about 5-10 minutes for reading and a quick summary)
- ☐ Language and structure knowledge- practise understanding the difference between language and structure
- ☐ Evaluative language to be used in question 4- create lists of these types of words and phrases.
- ☐ Practise different imaginative writing tasks- create a clear but short plan before starting to write.
- ☐ Try to have a couple of 'flexible' narratives that you can change slightly to fit many different exam questions.



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English Language Paper – 2 hours and 5 minutes

Structure of the exam

- **2 non-fiction extracts to read and respond to and a piece of transactional writing.**
- Questions 1-3 on text one
- Questions 4-6 on text two
- Question 7a and b on both texts
- Question 8/ 9 transactional writing
- **Question 1** - Find information from the text (quotation or your own words); line numbers given. (2 marks)
- **Question 2** - Find an example from the text (quotation) to show how the writer uses language. Explain how language is used. (2 marks)
- **Question 3** - Analyse how language and structure is used to engage the reader (15 marks) PETER paragraphs



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English Language Paper – 2 hours and 5 minutes

- **Question 4-** finding information (1 mark)
- **Question 5-** given a quotation and asked how language is used (1 mark)
- **Question 6-** evaluate the effectiveness of the writer based on a specific focus (15 marks)
- **Question 7a-** draw similarities between the two texts. Write 3 PEE paragraphs.(6 marks)
- **Question 7b-** compare and contrast the ideas in the two texts. Analyse the way language and structure is used to show these similarities and differences. (14 marks)
- **Question 8/ 9-** writing a 'real world' text- speech, article, letter, guide or review (40 marks)



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English Language Paper – 2 hours and 5 minutes

Key skills assessed

- Information retrieval
- Analysing language and structure
- Writing evaluatively
- Comparing
- Writing clear texts with cohesive and convincing ideas.
Spelling, punctuation, using advanced vocabulary.



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English Language Paper – 2 hours and 5 minutes

How to revise/ prepare:

- ☐ Read as many non-fiction extracts as possible. Be ready to summarise key points. Write short summaries next to each paragraph of the text. Do this under timed conditions.
- ☐ Practice papers- focus on the skill you need most practice on, but try to complete some full papers.
- ☐ Revise language and structure techniques particularly found in non-fiction texts.



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English Language Paper – 2 hours and 5 minutes

- ☐ Revise evaluative phrases
- ☐ Create revision cards/ posters of the key features of different non-fiction texts.
- ☐ Revise RAPFOREST and other language and structure techniques
- ☐ Plan and write a range of non-fiction texts. Always have a plan that is numbered and organised.



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General Advice

How to organise your revision

- ☐ Create a timetable for each subject over Easter
- ☐ Redo the timetable as you get closer to the exams, prioritising upcoming exams.

How to stay well and avoid too much stress

- ☐ Practise relaxation techniques.
- ☐ Build in time to socialise with friends or unwind with TV/ trips out.
- ☐ Exercise.



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General Advice

- ☐ Eat well and drink water.
- ☐ Keep bedtimes and wakeups regular.
- ☐ Don't miss scheduled revision sessions- this can lead to more stress.
- ☐ Have regular breaks.



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Where to find revision/ practice material

- Lots given out already by classroom teacher- organise these into a folder
- Edexcel website- exam materials section: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/english-language-2015/coursematerials.html#filterQuery=Pearson-UK:Category%2FExam-materials>
- Revision guides that might help:
- <https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enecub44-gcse-english-language-edexcel>
- Revision videos online: Miss Adams teaches English videos are generally quite useful. Be sure to complete activities as you watch or after you watch and not just watch passively.



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**Thank you for your
survey feedback.
Good luck in the
exams, Year 11!**



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