

How can I help my child revise for English?

Three steps which will put your child at an advantage

1. Know the exams they are sitting

- Pupils are studying for **two** GCSEs in English.
- They will be examined over **four** exams.

Literature	Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel• 1 hour 45 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing• 1 hour 45 minutes
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry• 2 hours 15 minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives• 1 hour 45 minutes

Ensuring that they have **working pens** that are **comfortable** to write with, on the day of the exam, will reduce anxiety and aid their productivity.

2. Know the texts they are studying

- Pupils are studying different texts
- Find out which ones they have studied in class

Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Either

- Macbeth **or** Romeo and Juliet

And

- The Sign of Four **or** Jekyll and Hyde **or** A Christmas Carol

Literature Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Either

- An Inspector Calls **or** The Lord of the Flies **or** Blood Brothers

And

- AQA Anthology: Power and Conflict

And

- Unseen Poetry (By its nature, we do not know the poems, but they will have to write about one poem, then compare this with a second unseen poem)

For each text, pupils should be able to

- Summarise what happens
- Identify the key events
- Identify the main characters
- Discuss the main themes
- Connect the text to the context
- Discuss how literary techniques are used

Simply talking with your child about these points in relation to each text will substantially aid recall, argument and analysis.

3. Create an environment conducive to reading

Consistency

- Reading should be habitual and part of the programme of revision for all pupils.
- The rule here should be 'little and often'.

Encourage Wider Reading

- Though pupils should focus on the literature texts they have studied, reading around and about these texts will deepen their understanding.
- For their language exam, reading short non-fiction articles either online or in newspapers will benefit their studies.
- Wider reading will aid pupils with their reading stamina, their ability to critique, compare and contrast texts, as well as help them craft their own writing.

Be Quiet

- Distractions of all kinds—especially phones, computers, tablets, games consoles etc— will have a negative effect on your child's ability to read in a focused, determined manner.

Fostering such an environment will not only give your child an advantage in their English exam, it will provide them with vital skills: patience, focus and resourcefulness.

And remember...

- Though they are no substitute for the books, film / television adaptations of the books are another 'way in' to the texts
- Plenty of revision guides are available, but these can add up. Your child's exercise books and BBC GCSE Bitesize websites are not only essential for revision, they are free.
- Your child is receiving four hours of revision in class each week. They should come prepared and be ready to ask questions.