

What should I be doing at home to prepare for my English GCSE exams?

English Language

- Read for pleasure – a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts
The benefits of this are:
 - ✓ Secure reading age vs. chronological age
 - ✓ Continued development of vocabulary, enabling you to express yourself in a sophisticated manner
 - ✓ Comprehension and ability to apply varying sentence structures
 - ✓ Improved use of linguistic devices and punctuation
- Discuss what you read with friends and family
- Use revision guides to revise the key skills for both papers
- Ensure you use the timing sheets provided by your class teacher to learn how much time you should spend on each question

English Literature

The texts studied in the literature exams are Macbeth, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and An Inspector Calls. **There are not going to be any questions on poetry this year (20/21).**

- Make sure you know the plot, themes, characters and context for the following:
 - ✓ An Inspector Calls
 - ✓ Macbeth
 - ✓ The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Revision methods

- Download revision powerpoints from <https://www.courtfields.net/student-links/>
- Record ideas onto your phone and listening to them on the walk/journey to school
- Download (and use) revision apps which allow you to record and organise information
- Write the information into a story
- Begin holding **virtual** revision parties – where you actually revise – creating questions based on your learning in class and using these to test yourself/friends
- Draw and label pictures (characters/themes/poems)
- Highlight key ideas or words in your book/revision books/revision notes
- Create a mind map of ideas or an actual map of settings to help you remember/recall the order of events
- Watch DVD versions (ask your teacher for the best examples) or poetry analysis (YouTube)
- Use web resources like BBC Bitesize and Mr Bruff on YouTube to help you
- Create visual displays or use post it notes in frequently visited places in your house (e.g. on the fridge, back of the toilet door) so that every time you're there, you're revising

- Create your own questions about character/language/theme and write a response to them

Remember, stay motivated and organised! Your results are your responsibility!

How parents can help:

- Encourage/enforce gadget free time at home to allow for revision to happen without distractions
- Create a revision timetable with your child, where you can set out time for family, friends, freedom, school, clubs and revision to ensure there is always time for it to happen
- If you can, help your child to create a quiet space in the house/their bedroom which is geared towards helping them study. Their resources, revision guides and/or folders could all be sorted here, helping your child develop an organised approach to revision
- Consider getting a wall chart. You can record key dates and examinations on it and it's a great visual aid for seeing how long you have to revise until certain examinations
- You can access the English revision powerpoints for your child here <https://www.courtfields.net/category/year-11/>
- **Ensure that these things are put into place for the first set of PPEs onwards (w/b 7th December 2020) – this set of PPEs will be on Jekyll and Hyde and English Language Paper 2**