

How to Support your Child's Revision

English Language (Exam board: AQA)

Practice Makes Perfect!

We provide the pupils with mini-mock packs for both Paper 1 (Literary Fiction) and Paper 2 (Non-fiction Viewpoints) and so encouraging them to sit somewhere quiet and practice questions in timed conditions is perfect revision. Their yellow folders contain a pack for both papers which guides them through the techniques needed for each question.

Websites

Underneath is a list of websites where your child can revise the key skills needed for success in the two English Language papers:

1. BBC Bitesize's website which looks at Paper 1 and Paper 2 skills - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>
2. Mr Bruff's YouTube channel with links to videos troubleshooting key questions on both papers - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>
3. Mrs Whealan's YouTube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0jbf4wl1GPts6hpbKZ-7Bw>
4. AQA Website with links to past papers with inserts (extracts) and mark schemes - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources>

Read Read Read

Reading is absolutely key to success in the Language papers. The more they can build their reading resilience at home, the better. Paper 1 uses an extract from the start of a novel or short story, so if they can spend time reading the opening pages of novels at home or online, this will help. We have cupboards full of books at school too!

We recommend two useful newspaper websites which publish articles where journalists write their opinion. This is useful practice for Paper 2 where they analyse the opinion of writers:

1. The Guardian: Comment - <https://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>
2. The Independent: Voices - <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices>

Actively discuss with your child

Even talking to your child about important societal issues can support their planning for Paper 2. Issues such as global warming, voting for 16 year olds, doping in sport, education and animal cruelty to name but a few!

Faculty approaches to know about:

1. Paper 1 Q5 – Golden Paragraphs and Planning Pyramid
2. Paper 2 Q5 – Five point plan and adopting a persona
3. 8/12 mark questions – follow ST (subject term), TD (text detail) and E (effect)

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Our texts

- Paper 1 – *Macbeth* and either *Jekyll and Hyde* or *A Christmas Carol*
- Paper 2 – Either *Lord of the Flies* or *An Inspector Calls*, *Love and Relationships* poetry and *Unseen* poetry

Knowing the Plot!

There is no better revision than knowing your text well. Please encourage your child to:

1. re-read key chapters or scenes from their text;
2. create A4 flowcharts of the 10 main plot events for each;
3. make lists of characters and themes from each text and talk to you about their importance in the story;
4. create flashcards of key quotations to learn that you can then test them on;
5. watch decent and faithful adaptations of the core texts (like the recent BBC version of *A Christmas Carol* or Fassbender's *Macbeth*).

Websites

You can direct your child to the following websites which can support their revision:

1. **BBC Bitesize's** web pages for the following texts:
 - a. *Macbeth* - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zgq3dmn>
 - b. *An Inspector Calls* - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zpr639q>
 - c. *A Christmas Carol* - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zwhkxsg>
 - d. *Lord of the Flies* – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zwt9mnb>
 - e. *Jekyll and Hyde* - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8642p3>
 - f. Poetry: *Love and Relationships* (note, not all the poems are covered here) - <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/topics/zprysg>
2. **Mr Bruff's** YouTube channel for videos on learning quotations, plot, characterisation and responding to essay questions - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w>
3. **Poetry By Heart** has revision resources for our poems and also has a random poetry generator for the unseen - <http://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/?s=&board=AQA>
4. **AQA Website** with links to past papers with inserts (extracts) and mark schemes - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>

Faculty approaches to know about:

1. PETAZL for essays – point, evidence, term, analysis, zoom and link
2. Zoom – where pupils choose one word from a line to analyse in more detail, saying a lot about a little
3. Link = back to the question, to writer's key aims and historical context (what was happening at the time which influenced the writer) of the text

