



# English Literature GCSE



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| Exam Board:<br><b>AQA</b> | <b>2 Papers (50% each)</b><br>Paper 1: 1 hour 45 mins<br>Paper 2: 2 hours 15 mins | <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes">https://www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes</a> |
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## Skills students are examined on:

| Reading Skills   | Writing Skills   |
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| Reading, understanding and responding to texts; Explore their impressions and interpretations through appropriate quotations; analyse how language and structure create meaning; use subject terminology to explore writer's methods; explore the relationship between text and context; | Use spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately.<br><b>Useful websites for texts:</b><br>GCSE Bitesize has useful pages for all AQA literature texts: <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx</a><br>Mr Bruff on Youtube delivers some accessible videos on the key texts:<br><a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCM2vdqz-7e4HAuzhpFuRY8w</a> |

## Suggested revision activities to help your child prepare for the English Literatures exams:

**Knowing the texts well, and how to select appropriate ideas and quotes to answer the question is key.** There are a range of practice questions, extracts and models on the school website which students can download. Alternatively, they can create their own from the texts

Read the extract and question with your child. Together, create a list of ideas from the extract which they could use to answer the question. Help them to highlight all phrases they could use to support these ideas.

Read the extract and explain how it fits in with the events of the rest of the text. What has led to the events in the extract? What are the consequences of the extract?

Read through a model and map out how the student has written it. Create step-by-step instructions which guide you through what the students does / says in their response. Use this step-by-step guide to write your own response to a different question.

Read the extract and create a mind-map of the contextual (social, historical, political issues influencing the writer) issues which may have influenced this particular moment of the text. Consider in your notes, what the writer is trying to say about these issues.

Take an extract and create your own question by:

- Identifying the key theme of the extract.
- Phrasing the question so that a response focuses on the extract and the whole text.

### Learning quotes

Students can create their own quote revision tasks such as the one below. Look, cover, write, check is an effective memorisation strategy:

| Column One – Full Quote  | Column Two – Fill in the missing words   | Column Three – Write out the full quote |
|--|--|---|
| "It's not my business," Scrooge returned. "It's enough for a man to understand his own business, and not to interfere with other people's. Mine occupies me constantly." | "It's not my _____," Scrooge returned. "It's enough for a man to _____ his own business, and not to _____ with other people's. Mine _____ me _____." |   |

### Quote Explosions

Get your child to zoom in on choices made in important quotes from a literature text:

What are the writer's intentions in this quote? What are they showing / saying about their time / society?

Connotations of words (what they suggest/ make the reader think of).

Techniques or devices – identify and label

Chosen quote

How does this quote link to the major themes of the text / other quotes?

Sentence structure, construction or length?

### Timed Writing

Once your child feels confident and has practised not in timed conditions, help them by timing them to write paragraphs. They should spend roughly 45 minutes on literature responses, aiming to include an introduction, at least 3 analytical paragraphs and a

### Planning

Help them to organise their ideas and plan a response. Encourage them to do the following:

- Read the question and highlight the key words;
- Highlight and annotate the relevant section of the text;
- Note down ideas which you can use to answer. Use arrows and numbers to divide these into paragraphs.