

How Can I support my child at home?

Many parents feel at a loss when their children enter their GCSE years, and sometimes it feels as if it is best to leave it to the 'experts' at school, but your involvement is crucial. Recent research has found that parental support is eight times more important in determining a child's academic success than social class. The good news is that you don't have to be an expert in any of the subjects that your child studies to make a difference; you just need to know how best to support your child's revision.

1 Create a "revision only" space. Make this area free from distractions such as games consoles. Equally, if they are revising on computers, keep these in areas where you are able to monitor what they are looking at.

2 Help your child to create helpful routines. Create a revision timetable leading up to all examinations and discuss with them the importance of regular revision. Ensure that they are also reading a variety of different reading material for at least 10 minutes a day. Most GCSE papers require students to have a reading age of 15 years in order to understand what is being asked of them. Regular reading will help this!

3 Look in their English books/folders and get them to talk you through what they have been studying. Get them to teach you new ideas or concepts! We learn 80% better from teaching others and they will love being the experts (possibly!).

4 Above all - always be positive about your child's abilities in English. We know that this isn't a subject that every child finds easy but you know as an adult that the best way to get them engaged is if they believe they can achieve, even if they make mistakes along the way.

Helpful Links:



BBC BITESIZE www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

There's lots here to consolidate your knowledge. There are separate areas for both English Literature and English Language. All aspects of the qualifications are covered.

AQA WEBSITE www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english

You can find past papers, mark schemes and exam reports. Look for the 'assessment resources' area and go from there



SPARKNOTES www.sparknotes.com

A similar(ish) website to BBC Bitesize. You'll find notes on most of the English Literature texts, plus quizzes to test your knowledge.

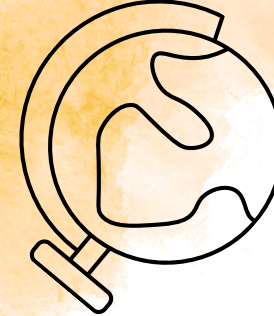
CLIFFS NOTES www.cliffsnotes.com

There's plenty here to help you revise the core English Literature texts - chapter summaries, character overviews, quizzes and essay questions.



SENECA www.senecalearning.com

There's plenty here to help you revise the core English Literature texts as well as English Language areas. You can quiz yourself or learn about key areas that you want to work on.



Derby Cathedral School

How to revise for GCSE English



- USE PRACTICE PAPERS - You can find practice papers online or ask your teacher. Use a timer to practise writing to a specific limit. Then, read through your response and use three different coloured pens to highlight where you have met AO1, AO2 and AO3.
- USE MIND MAPS - Secure knowledge of the characters, plots, main themes and context of the texts is imperative. Create mind maps based on these things using notes from your exercise books or revision guides. Then, frequently test what you can recall from memory for each of your posters/mind maps.
- USE QUIZZES - Test your knowledge of the texts using low-stakes quizzing. As well as your weekly homework quizzes, there are many quizzes available online, such as on Quizlet or Seneca. You could even partner up with a friend to create quizzes that you can swap with each other. This includes quizzing yourself on key subject terminology
- USE ONLINE RESOURCES - There are many free resources available online. YouTube channels, such as Mr Bruff, BBC Bitesize and GCSE Pod are good starting points. There are even tutorials on TikTok by English teachers - just search the name of the text, e.g. 'An Inspector Calls'.



GCSE LANGUAGE

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Time allowance: 1hr 45 mins (2 hrs 10 minutes with 25% extra allowance)

Reading section

- Q1. Multiple Choice Questions (4 marks)
- Q2. Language analysis of an extract from the source (8 marks)
- Q3. Structure analysis of the WHOLE source (8 Marks)
- Q4. Statement analysis (agree/disagree) in relation to the text (20 marks)

Writing Section

- Q5. Creative piece - Descriptive OR Narrative

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

Time allowance: 1hr 45 mins (2 hrs 10 minutes with 25% extra allowance)

Reading Section

- Q1. True/False statements (4 marks)
- Q2. Summary of differences between texts (based on a specific idea) (8 marks)
- Q3. Language analysis (specific focus given) (12 marks)
- Q4. Comparing a specific idea/ideas across both texts (16 marks)

Writing Section

- Q5. Writing to present a point of view (you will produce a non-fiction text type: speech, newspaper article) (40 marks - 24 for organisation and content, 16 marks for SPaG accuracy and effectiveness)

GCSE LITERATURE

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Time allowance: 1hr 45 mins (2 hrs 10 minutes with 25% extra allowance)

Section A

Macbeth (30 marks + 4 SPaG marks)

Section B

A Christmas Carol (30 marks)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Time allowance: 2hr 15 mins (2 hrs 48 minutes with 25% extra allowance)

Section A

An Inspector Calls (30 marks + 4 SPaG marks)

Section B

Seen Poetry Comparison - Power and Conflict (30 marks)

Section C

Unseen Poetry

- Part 1: A poem you haven't seen before with a specific focus for you to analyse (24 marks)
- Part 2: Comparisons of writers methods between unseen poem from part 1 and another unseen (8 marks)

- USE PRACTICE PAPERS - You can find practice papers online or ask your teacher. Use a timer to practise writing to a specific limit. Try to also improve your Section B responses by going back and changing boring words to something more ambitious, checking that you are using a variety of techniques, sentence lengths, sentence openings, and punctuation!
- USE ONLINE RESOURCES - There are many free resources available online. YouTube channels, such as Mr Bruff, BBC Bitesize and GCSE Pod are good starting points. There are even tutorials on TikTok by English teachers - just search the name of the area that you want to focus on, e.g. 'Language Paper 1, Question 3'.
- USE READING MATERIALS - Reading makes up 50% of the qualification. The key to success in English Language is exposure to a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. This could be novels, news articles, blogs, biographies, reviews, fact books, or any other quality reading material. Aim to read for AT LEAST 10 mins per day.
- USE MIND MAPS/POSTERS - Writing makes up 50% of the qualification. Create punctuation guide posters to ensure you're confident with how to use varied punctuation accurately. You could also create vocabulary mind-maps by upgrading basic adjectives such as 'big' and 'nice'. Colours are also useful to upgrade. Practise creating tension or action by varying your sentence lengths, or include a variety of sentence openings to engage your reader.