

How To Revise

For English Literature, in particular, there is a lot of information to remember. You need to remember texts that you studied in Year 10 as well as ones that you study throughout the year. It is, therefore, important that you start to revise now and do so in chunks frequently.

Our Independent Learning work and Revision session are intended to help guide your revision but they are not enough on their own. You need to be making flashcards and testing yourself on key quotes and knowledge for the texts and poems that you have already studied and working through past papers.

English Literature

The key to revising for English Literature is ensuring that you have a detailed knowledge of:

- The plot
- The journey that each character goes on (track them throughout the text)
- Key themes
- We have created our essential quotes which you **must** know but any extra are also helpful.

Key Revision Materials

- Annotated copies of texts
- Annotated anthology
- Booklets from lessons
- Revision guides
- Essay plans from revision sessions
- Flashcards
- Past paper/exam style questions

Most Accurate Film Versions of Key Texts

Disney's 'A Christmas Carol' with Jim Carey (2009)

Roman Polaski's 'Macbeth' (1971)

English Language

Revising for English Language does not require you to remember vast amounts of information. You do need to know:

- How to answer the questions
- Key question stems
- How to structure an engaging narrative (story)
We will rehearse a narrative in class and you should spend time writing it in timed conditions at home
- Persuasive devices
- Formal vs informal language
- Features of different forms of non-fiction texts (article, blog, letter, speech, review and report)

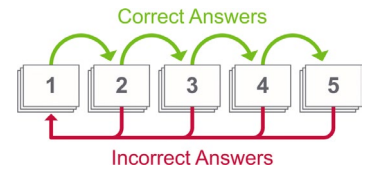
We have rehearsed a review in class and you should spend time writing it in timed conditions at home



How To Revise

Below you will find three different techniques that you could use to revise. These are the methods we think are most effective. Simply re-reading notes or revision guides is not effective – you must recall, repeat and refine information in order to ‘make it stick’.

There are videos explaining ‘how to’ use these techniques on the school website shortly. They will also be posted in Teams.



Flashcards

What Are They?

Flashcards are a means of self-testing. You need questions or prompts on the front with an answer or explanation on the back. They can be used to self-test or with a partner. You will receive immediate feedback and be able to see what you know and what you need to revise more frequently.

What Are They Useful For?

Flashcards are best used to help you to remember key quotes and facts about plots, characters, context or themes. They are a good way to learn factual content.

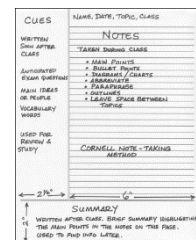
What's The Best Way To Use Them?

Flashcards are best used following a system known as ‘The Leitner System’. ‘The Leitner System’ is a way to structure your testing and sift what you know well from what you need to focus more on. All the cards start off in Box (or Stack) 1. As you review the cards, each card you answer correctly goes into Box 2. If you give the wrong answer, study the card and then put it back in Box 1. When you review the cards in Box 2, if you still get the answer right, the card is promoted to Box 3, and so on until all the cards are in the highest box. If you get an answer wrong on a card in Box 2, 3, 4 or up the highest box you are using, the card is demoted all the way down to Box 1.

Cornell Notes

What Are They?

Cornell Notes is a way to structure your notes that allows them to be useful for self-testing. Your page needs to be split into four sections. Section 1: heading at the top of the page. Section 2: a column down the left hand side of the page. Section 3: a large column down the right hand side of the page. Section 4: a section ruled off (without a margin) at the bottom of the page.



What Are They Useful For?

Summarising information about: characters; Acts in An Inspector Calls and Macbeth or Staves in A Christmas Carol; themes; and poems.

What's The Best Way To Use Them?

You write the key information that you need to know in Section 3. Opposite each piece of key information in that section, you write a key word or prompt to help you remember that information in Section 2. Once you have all of the information that you need, you reduce the information even further and create a summary to put in Section 4. Once you have completed these notes, you can use these to self-test. You would cover the information in Sections 3 and 4 and use the prompts in Section 2 to write down as much as you can remember (or you could create a duplicate page with just the title and Section 2 prompts) then compare what you have remembered to your original notes.



Blurt Revision

What Is It?

Blurt revision focuses on using a set time to see what you know about a specific topic so that you can see what you clearly know well. You then use your notes to evaluate what information you have missed and create a priority list for further revision.

What Are They Useful For?

Assessing what you know well and need to revise further for specific topics such as characters; context; themes or poems (not for whole texts as this would require more time and be too vast for you to really assess what you know well).

What's The Best Way To Use Them?

Give yourself a set time between 3-5minutes to write down everything that you can remember about a specific topic. During this time you should not look at anything to help you (this is purely for you to see what you can remember really well). Once the time is up, you should use your notes and any revision materials to fill in any gaps/check that what you have written is accurate/add further useful information in another colour. Then, turn this information into revision cards to test yourself and learn it. Repeat the blurt in a couple of weeks and see how much you now know and repeat the process. The list of things to learn should decrease over time, although it is not unusual for things that you initially know well to end up on your flashcards at some point so don't panic.

Useful Websites

The following are links to useful websites and videos which can help you with you revision. This is not an exhaustive list but highlights of sites that have proven helpful to other students in the past. Merely watching the videos is not enough, you need to be actively making revision resources from them.

Cram

Also available as an app, you can create revision cards and the site will test you on them using 'The Leitner System'. <https://www.cram.com/>



Dystopia Junkie

Has videos to guide you through all the key texts (including the anthology). Useful if you need to catch up on anything that you have missed. Guidance given links to the Eduqas specification.

<https://www.youtube.com/@DystopiaJunkie>

GuigLit

Has videos to guide you through Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, Unseen Poetry and Language including 'How to..' videos. <https://www.youtube.com/@GuigLit>

BBC Bitesize

A one-stop shop with videos, quick quizzes and written information about the key texts. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zw9mycw>

Physics and Maths Tutor

Despite the name, this site has revision resources for Macbeth and A Christmas Carol as well as past papers for both GCSE English Language and Literature but you must select the correct exam board. [Eduqas GCSE \(9-1\) English Literature Revision - PMT](https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/gcse/english/literature/)

