

January 2023



Dear Parents,

We know that preparing for GCSE examinations can be a stressful time for both parents and students and you will probably have lots of questions regarding how you can help your child in the lead up to their exams.

With this in mind, the St George's English Department wanted to provide you with reassurance, support and guidance on this using the most up to date educational research.

Firstly, maintaining good physical and mental health during this time is of the utmost importance and to do this we advise students to create a revision timetable where they revise their knowledge little and often.

- You can help by devising a revision timetable with them where you work out time slots that they are going to revise.
- Initially, we would advise a minimum of 2 hours a week broken up into 20-minute slots. You can organise this in whatever way best suits your child's schedule so that they are still making time for hobbies and relaxation. There are two examples below for what this might look like for your child.

Diagram 1:

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
20	20	20	20	20	Relax	20

By breaking up your revision into 20 minute chunks and spacing out the time between revision, you will consolidate what you have learned and retain the material much more effectively.

Diagram 2:

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
20	20	20			Relax	Relax
20	20	20				

By breaking up your revision into 20 minute chunks and spacing out the time between revision, you will consolidate what you have learned and retain the material much more effectively.

I know when to revise, but how do I do it?:

The first stage of revision is identifying the gaps that need to be plugged.

For each topic, your child needs to know:

- the **plot**
- the **themes**
- the **context** the text was written in
- information about the **characters** and how they change.

Creating **timelines** for each of the above for each of their texts is really useful (see an example timeline below) so that your child can then identify their gaps.

They should then, ideally in a different coloured pen, locate the knowledge from their curriculum booklets/ homework booklets/ revision booklet/ poetry anthology or the websites listed below.

Example timeline

LADY MACBETH

"Look like the innocent flower
but be the serpent under it."]Appearance vs. Reality



"Leave all the rest to me."

"Coward (...)] Art thou afraid" → Power + Masculinity



"A little water clears us of this deed"

"Unsex me here"

↳ Masculinity = power

"Come you Spirits"

↳ Imperative

↳ Sinful

"I fear thy nature is too full o' th'
milk of human kindness?" → challenging Macbeth's
masculinity

↳ Macbeth is too gentle

"Why do you make such faces?"

↳ Violent + evocative
verbs

"I would (...) dash'd the brains out"

↳ Superior to Macbeth

"Screw your courage to the
Sticking Place."

"Go (...) wash this filthy witness
from your hands."

↳ While it was smiling in my face...

↳ Her words shake the tender
image of a baby

↳ She seems to
be denying her
femininity

"She has light by her continually"

↳ lack of power
vulnerable

↳ collapse to insanity
Seeking manliness was not
the way to attain power.

↳

SECTION A - How far does Shakespeare present L.M as Powerful?

• POWER

"Power corrupts + absolute
power corrupts absolutely"
(LORD RICHARD)
↳ as a person's power increases,
their moral sense diminishes.

• GENDER

Lady Macbeth takes on Masculine
characteristics. Gender is out
of its traditional Order.

• L.M + EVE

Lady Macbeth Persuades Macbeth
to "kill Duncan, then act like a
serpent."

Lady Macbeth just like Eve tempted
and corrupted the Garden of Eden
and Macbeth's loyalty to the King

Useful websites:

The following websites are really useful in covering all of this information:

<https://mrbruff.com/> (this includes worksheets with questions, video links and exam questions)
<https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff/videos>

<https://www.stormfax.com/dickens.htm> (The full novel online)

<http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html> (the full play of Macbeth online)

https://englishcreek.weebly.com/uploads/6/9/7/2/6972564/q6_lord_of_the_flies_-_7701.pdf (the full novel, The Lord of the Flies, online)

www.sparknotes.com

www.cliffsnotes.com

www.yorknotes.com

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx> (BBC Bitesize - select AQA Exam Spec and then the text they wish to focus on)

Revision Cards:

Learning quotes is a crucial component of revision for Literature and to make it stick it needs to be a daily activity.

Creating revision cards with quote gap fills are very effective or that ask questions focusing on specific quotes.

On one side of the card, you would need a question or part of a quotation and then on the other side, the answer.

Your child's revision booklet and/or homework booklets have a list of key quotes for each character and theme in them and act as a fantastic starting point for which quotes to learn. Testing and quizzing your child on quotes would be a fantastic way to support their recall fluency. See the example below of a revision card.

<p>Front</p> <p>What is the term for a manipulative and seductive woman and which character best fits this archetype?</p>	<p>Front</p> <p>What is a misanthropist and who does that best describe?</p>	<p>Front</p> <p>Chapter 1 LOTF:</p> <p>'The shore was _____ with _____ trees'</p>
<p>Back</p> <p>Femme fatale</p> <p>Lady Macbeth</p>	<p>Back</p> <p>Someone with a dislike of human kind</p> <p>Scrooge</p>	<p>Back</p> <p>'The shore was fledged with palm trees'</p>



Finally, essay plans and questions.

<https://revisionworld.com/>

<https://mrbruff.com/> (click on worksheets and then select the text you require)

Use the above website to locate past papers so that your child can practise planning and answering the questions in timed conditions. Select GCSE Past Papers and then English Literature and then AQA English Literature Past Papers. Alternatively, remind your child to ask their teacher for an exam question if you struggle to find a question on the website.

There are also links to Exam Advice on there for further support.

What resources have the school provided?

Saturday school: 2 hour sessions taking place initially on alternate weekends (please encourage your child to attend as many as possible)

Homework booklets: Look, cover, check quotations for each topic and key questions

Curriculum booklets: core content completed in class with teacher instruction

Educake: pupils can set themselves quizzes on every single text that we study

Speaking to your child's class teacher:

The most important role that you play in your child's revision is making sure that they start now and do not put it off. If there is anything else we can do to support you with this, please contact your child's teacher:

10G1: Miss Hines and Mrs Colson Jennifer.hines@cidari.co.uk Gill.colson@cidari.co.uk	10S1: Miss Hines and Mrs Moreea Jennifer.hines@cidari.co.uk Sumaiya.moreea@cidari.co.uk
10G2: Miss Bilsbury Victoria.bilsbury@cidari.co.uk	10S2: Miss Frain Susan.frain@cidari.co.uk
10G3: Mr Scott Christopher.scott@cidari.co.uk	10S3: Mrs Tingey Bea.tingey@cidari.co.uk
10G4: Mr Baugh Alexander.baugh@cidari.co.uk	10S4: Mrs Colson Gill.colson@cidari.co.uk

We hope that you have found this a useful starting point in supporting your child in their English Literature GCSE.