

## Revision strategies for English (but can be applied to most subject exams.)

### Online resources:

- GCSE Pod – fully up to date videos
- BBC Bitesize – older but worth using
- SMHW – can still access all tasks on there
- Do a google search - there are LOADS for your literature texts – read around different interpretations.

Each of these will give you social/historical context, give ideas on different interpretations, explore language, and remind you to look for the effects of specialist technical vocabulary.

### Key word / quote lists

- Stick them up in your bedroom, on the fridge, in the bathroom, anywhere you'll see them regularly. Make a different one your screen saver every day.
- Test yourself on them, and test your friends. You could do it at break, at lunch, on the bus, on facetime, by text, etc.
- Make up your own missing word tests – eg, Inspector: 'Public men, Mr Birling, have \_\_\_\_\_ as well as privileges.'
- Invent quick fire rounds – eg 'a good quote for Sheila showing guilty' or 3 powerful quotes from an anthology poem.
- Create word mats like in MFL – all the key quotes, or themes, or whatever you want, on one sheet.
- For specialist vocabulary or techniques, use or invent mnemonics to remember them. HITS FOR FREEE? DAFOREST? PEAL? Which does your class use?
- Practice identifying word types or language techniques. Look at adverts or road signs – which are the nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, prepositions, connectives or determiners?

### Practice questions

- For literature, come up with your own practice questions. What could themes or concepts could they ask about your literature texts? What about a character based question? A structure based question? What else?
- For the anthology poems, practise choosing two poems for possible themes. (They'll pick one poem for you in the exam – you have to select another to compare, and remember quotes for both.)
- When a lengthy answer is required, practise planning it. Give yourself 5 minutes to mind map / plan an answer to a question. If you did one a week for each text, chances are you could hit on the right one before the exam.
- 'Mind mapping extra' or 'red pen/black pen' - create a mind map on a topic or question. Look over it and try and remember as much as possible, hide it away and use a black pen to recreate the mind map. When you can't remember anymore check the original and add any missing points in a red pen. Repeat the process and more should be in black each time. Apparently red signifies danger and we remember it more!
- Nothing beats writing a full timed answer. If you know you'll have 45 minutes for a question, set the timer on your phone and GO!
- Marathon train your writing hand. You wouldn't turn up to a marathon without training if you want a PB. Write full answers when you can.
- For language reading, we know which questions are coming up (see below). Pick a short fiction extract for Paper 1, or two linked non-fiction texts, and apply the questions **we know are coming**. How is this text using language to get what it wants? How is structure used? What is the perspective of the writer? How do you know? PRACTISE!!!
- For language writing, you can easily make up practice questions, as long as you need to describe or narrate for paper 1, or express a point of view for paper 2. PRACTISE!!!

<u>Language Paper 1 Reading</u> 1. List 4 things... (4) 2. Language question (8) 3. Structure question (8) 4. To what extent do you agree (20) <u>Writing</u> Describe / Narrate (40)	<u>Language Paper 2 Reading</u> 1. True/false (4) 2. Write a summary (8) 3. Language question (12) 4. Compare perspectives (16) <u>Writing</u> Expressing a point of view (40)
<u>Literature Paper 1</u> 1. One question on extract and then whole text on 'Christmas Carol / Frankenstein / Sign of Four/Jekyll and Hyde' 2. One question on extract and then the whole text on 'Romeo and Juliet / Macbeth.'	<u>Literature Paper 2</u> 1. One essay question (from choice of two) on 'An Inspector Calls.' 2. One compare question on <b>poems from the anthology</b> 3. Two questions on two <b>unseen poems</b> .