

GCSE English Language

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Section A: Reading

Q1: Find four things as directed, in the start of the extract. [4 marks]

Q2: Analyse writer's use of **language** in a part of the extract. [8 marks]

Q3: Analyse how the writer has **structured** the extract. [8 marks]

Q4: Respond to a '**how far do you agree?**' question about a section of the extract. [20 marks]

How can I revise for this section?

1. Memorise the list of techniques we made in class. Make sure you know what they mean and what their effect might be.
2. Open a fiction book at page 1 and analyse what you see on the page. (NB: the library has lots!). Answer these questions about the text:
 - What is being presented in this first page? How do you know?
 - What language features does the writer use? What effect do they have on the reader?
 - How is it structured to interest and engage the reader?
3. Do it all over again with another novel or short story.
4. Find a past paper for this GCSE online – just google AQA English Language.
 - Answer questions 2-4.
 - Check the markscheme for those questions.
 - Look back at the passage and try to identify the features that the mark scheme mentions (if you didn't get them first time)

Section B: Writing

Write a story or a descriptive piece in response to a stimulus (which will usually be a picture).

This is where you use all the techniques you have been identifying in fiction texts, in your own writing.

[24 marks for content +
16 marks for technical accuracy]

How can I revise for this section?

Practise writing! (Use the questions from the past papers, or ask me for suggestions)

In 45 minutes you should aim to write about 250 words.

Think about how you can include **language features** to create effect – practise writing a paragraph then rewriting it to create a particular effect on the reader.

GCSE English Language

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Section A: Reading

Q1: Select the four true statements out of a list of 8, based on one of the passages. [4 marks]

Q2: Write a **summary comparing** the two passages' viewpoints on or descriptions of a particular thing or issue. [8 marks]

Q3: Analysis of **language** in a section from one of the passages. [12 marks]

Q4: **Compare techniques** used by the writers in both of the passages. [16 marks]

How can I revise for this section?

1. Revisit the list of techniques you were using for paper 1 section A. What techniques might a non-fiction writer use in addition to these?
2. Visit the websites for the *Daily Mail* online and *The Guardian* online. Find an article from each which is about a similar event or topic. Compare them, thinking about
 - What is the writer's viewpoint? How do you know?
 - What does the writer want the reader to feel/ think/do when they have read the article? How do you know?
 - What language/structural features does the writer use? What effect do they have on the reader?
3. Do it all over again with different articles.
4. Find a past paper for this GCSE online – just google AQA English Language.
 - Answer questions 2-4.
 - Check the markscheme for those questions.
 - Look back at the passage(s) and try to identify the features that the mark scheme mentions (if you didn't get them first time)

Section B: Writing

You will be asked to write for a specific **audience and purpose, arguing or persuading** with regard to a specific topic. The most likely forms of writing are: **article, letter, speech**.

This is where you use all the techniques you have been identifying in non-fiction texts, in your own writing.

[24 marks for content +
16 marks for technical accuracy]

How can I revise for this section?

Practise writing! (Use the questions from the past papers, or ask me for suggestions)

In 45 minutes you should aim to write about 250 words.

Think about how you can make your viewpoint clear and convincing – what **language/structural features** could you use?

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Section A: Shakespeare (*Macbeth*)

You will be given an **extract** from the play and asked to write about **how Shakespeare presents a theme/character** in both the extract and the play as a whole.

[30 marks +
4 marks for SPaG]

How can I revise for this section?

Make sure you are clear on:

- plot: what happens in the play in which order
- characters: who are they? What are their relationships with each other? How are they portrayed? Why has Shakespeare portrayed them this way? Links to...
- ... themes. What are the themes? What did Shakespeare want his audience to think about? Links to....
- ... context. Is this play a comedy or a tragedy? How does it fit into that genre? What was happening in England at the time of writing? How does that affect the play?

Watch different film versions of the play and think about how the characters and action are presented in each one.

Practise answering exam questions:

- Look up past papers and try those questions.
- Create your own context questions to practise. Select a key scene from the play you think would be good to write about (approx. half a side of text). (the play can be found online at <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>). Highlight and copy it, then use it to answer one of the questions below: whichever is more fitting for the scene you have selected.
 1. How does Shakespeare present the theme of [insert theme here] in this extract and in the play as a whole?
 2. How does Shakespeare create an atmosphere of [insert appropriate noun here] in this extract and in the play as a whole?
 3. How does Shakespeare present the character of [insert character's name here] in this extract and in the play as a whole?

Section B: 19th Century Novel (*A Christmas Carol*)

You will be given an **extract** from the novella and asked to write about **how Dickens presents** a theme/character in both the extract and the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

How can I revise for this section?

- **Re-read** the novella with a pen in your hand (underline key quotations/make notes in the margin where scenes link to particular characters and /or themes).
- **Watch** the film
- **Learn the plot** off by heart – all the key moments, in the correct order.
- Look up **past papers** and try those questions.
- **Create your own context questions** to practise.

Find the electronic copy of the novella (<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19337/19337-h/19337-h.htm>). Select a key scene from the novella you think would be good to write about (approx. half a side of text). Highlight and copy it, then use it to answer one of the questions below: whichever is more fitting for the scene you have selected).

1. How does Dickens present the theme of [insert theme here] in this extract and in the novella?
2. How does Dickens create an atmosphere of [insert appropriate noun here] in this extract and in the novella?
3. How does Dickens present the character of [insert character's name here] in this extract and in the novella?

Practise answering context questions. Hand them in to me for marking/feedback.

- **Learn key points and quotations** for all the main characters and themes that may come up on the essay question. Make sure you have created revision cards/sheets for the topics listed below:

Ebenezer Scrooge
Nephew Fred
Bob Cratchit
The Cratchit Family

Christmas
Poverty
Redemption/Change
Supernatural/The Ghosts
Social responsibility

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry

Section A: Modern texts (*Lord of the Flies*)

You will be asked a question along the lines of,

- how does Golding present the theme of....?
- how does Golding use the character of to explore?

[30 marks +
4 marks for SPaG]

How can I revise for this section?

- **Re-read** the novel with a pen in your hand (underline key quotations/make notes in the margin where scenes link to particular characters and /or themes).
- **Watch** the film
- **Learn the plot** off by heart – all the key moments, in the correct order.
- Look up **past papers** and try those questions.
- Create your own questions using the examples above.

Section B: Poetry: AQA Anthology Power and Conflict

One of the poems from the anthology will be printed on the exam paper, and you will be asked to **compare** the ways in which the poet and **one other from the anthology**, present an idea or theme.

[30 marks]

How can I revise for this section?

- Make sure you **know each poem** really well, including:
 - What is the poem about? How do you know?
 - Why did the poet write this poem?
 - How does the writer use language/structure for effect?
 - What is the poem's context? Why is that relevant?
- Make a map or chart of the **poems' connections** to each other.
- Look up past papers and try those questions.
- **Create your own questions** to practise. Use as your question, how do the poems [title] and [title] present the idea of?

Section C: Unseen poetry

Q1: You will be asked to **analyse a poem** which is printed on the exam paper. [24 marks]

Q2: You will be asked to **compare the methods** used in the poem from Q1 and one other poem.

[8 marks]

How can I revise for this section?

- Make sure you understand the **techniques** a poet might use. This will be all the techniques a fiction writer might use (look at GCSE Lang Paper 1 Section A), with additional structural features such as metrical pattern, rhyme, enjambment etc.
- Look up past papers and try those questions.
- For each of the poets in the anthology, find another poem (google it!) and practise analysing it.