

Revision...

# GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature

Tips for Success!



Handsworth Grange Community Sports College  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

## 1. Know your Exam Board

### AQA

- English Language Unit Code: 8700
- English Literature Unit Code: 8702

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse>

## 2. Learn the Exam BASICS

*Can you answer the following questions?*

- a. How many exams are you doing?
- b. How long is each exam?
- c. How many questions do you need to answer on each exam?
- d. How many marks is each question worth?
- e. How long do you need to spend on each question?
- f. What skills do you need to demonstrate in each question?

*If not, speak with your English teacher*

## 3. READ, READ and READ SOME MORE!

- ✓ Read and re-read the Literature texts you need to know for the Literature Exams.
- ✓ Read newspaper articles (online is fine!) – your Language Exam will feature extracts from newspaper articles - the more familiar you are with the style, the easier you will find the exam.
- ✓ Look up any words you don't understand as you read. (This will develop your understanding but, more significantly, your vocabulary!)
- ✓ Read texts that challenge you. Use the reading list in this guide to help you pick a challenging text. You may not finish it, but the more you try the easier you will find it. Your Language Exams will feature extracts from 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Literature. Some 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century texts are challenging, so the more exposure you have to them, the easier you will find the exam.

#### 4. Practise exam responses in TIMED conditions.

- a) Make sure you know HOW LONG you SHOULD be spending on a question.
- b) When you do your practice questions you MUST make sure you time yourself.
- c) It is no good writing a brilliant answer if it takes you longer than you are allowed in the exam.
- d) Practising in TIMED CONDITIONS will improve your EXAM STAMINA.

#### 5. Use revision guides wisely

Revision guides are great but not if you just read them.

Use them interactively – make notes / condense ideas into mind maps / challenge yourself by putting quotations on cue cards / colour code themes / revise terminology.

Useful **websites** to help with your revision....

Support with English Language and Literature can be found at:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z33qxsg/resources/5>

Literacy Skills (to help with the SPaG marks!)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/topic-group/spelling>

An online version of Macbeth can be found at:

<http://www.shakespeare-online.com/plays/macbethscenes.html>

An online version of A Christmas Carol can be found at:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=a+christmas+carol>

Extra support with your Literature texts can be found at:

<http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/>

Online newspaper articles can be found at various news websites:

*Challenge yourself by giving one of these 19<sup>th</sup> / 20<sup>th</sup> century classics a go....*

[Emma](#) by Jane Austen (1816)

Jane Austen's Emma is her masterpiece, mixing the sparkle of her early books with a deep sensibility.

[Frankenstein](#) by Mary Shelley (1818)

Mary Shelley's first novel has been hailed as a masterpiece of horror and the macabre.

[Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Brontë (1847)

Charlotte Brontë's erotic, gothic masterpiece became the sensation of Victorian England.

[Wuthering Heights](#) by Emily Brontë (1847)

Emily Brontë's windswept masterpiece is notable not just for its wild beauty but for its daring reinvention of the novel form itself.

[David Copperfield](#) by Charles Dickens (1850)

David Copperfield marked the point at which Dickens became the great entertainer and also laid the foundations for his later, darker masterpieces.

[The Scarlet Letter](#) by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850)

# Reading List

