



How to Prepare for Your GCSE Literature Exams

aka

Being independent in my revision, taking control of these exams and being absolutely brilliant in the process!

You can do this!

English Literature Paper 1 - Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel

1hr 45 mins

Section A – Romeo and Juliet- 30 Marks + 4 marks SPaG

Section B – A Christmas Carol - 30 Marks

Paper 1 Section A – Romeo and Juliet:

- Read the text again
- Know where the **key sections** are in the text and the **order** of the text (you could create timelines, storyboards, flowcharts to help with this – get creative!)
- Revise **character, plot, setting, themes...** (analyse and evaluate the language and structural devices used by the writer – create flash cards, write practise essays)
- Use **GCSEBitesize, youtube, PiXL LitApp** to revise and test yourself on the texts
- Select **key quotes** and practise using them in analysis. Try to remember them.
- Invest in **revision guides** either in book form (e.g. York Notes) or online to help you.
- Read and study **critical essays or reviews** of each literature text and build up your own opinion. Do you agree/disagree and why?
- Ensure you understand the **Assessment Objectives** and the criteria that you will be examined against.
- Use **extracts** from your teacher and from these revision pages to write practice extract responses.

Paper 1 Section B – A Christmas Carol

- Read the text again
- Know where the **key sections** are in the text and the **order** of the text (you could create timelines, storyboards, and flowcharts to help with this – get creative!)
- Revise **character, plot, setting, themes...** (analyse and evaluate the language and structural devices used by the writer – create flash cards, write practise essays)
- Use **GCSEBitesize, youtube, PiXL LitApp** to revise and test yourself on the texts
- Select **key quotes** and practise using them in analysis. Try to remember them.
- Invest in **revision guides** either in book form (e.g. York Notes) or online to help you.
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English Literature Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry – 2hrs **15mins**

Section A – Modern Prose or Drama (An Inspector Calls)- 30 Marks + 4 Marks SPaG

Section B – Poetry (Power and Conflict) – 30 Marks

Section C – Unseen Poetry - 24 Marks + 8 Marks Comparison with
second unseen poem

Section A Modern Prose or Drama – An Inspector Calls:

- Read the text again
- Know where the **key sections** are in the text and the **order** of the text (you could create timelines, storyboards, and flowcharts to help with this – get creative!)
- Revise **character, plot, setting, themes...** (analyse and evaluate the language and structural devices used by the writer – create flash cards, write practise essays)
- Use **GCSEBitesize, youtube, PiXL LitApp** to revise and test yourself on the texts
- Select **key quotes** and practise using them in analysis. Try to remember them.
- Invest in **revision guides** either in book form (e.g. York Notes) or online to help you.
- Read and study **critical essays or reviews** of each literature text and build up your own opinion. Do you agree/disagree and why?
- Ensure you understand the **Assessment Objectives** and the criteria that you will be examined against.

Section B- Poetry (Love and Relationships):

- Reread all the poems studied and develop your **interpretations** and **personal opinions** of them. Consider alternative **possible meanings** too.
- Make **revision cards/posters/mind maps/images/storyboards** for each poem.
- Revise the **meaning, language, structure, form and tone** of the poems in the Love and Relationships cluster.

- Research and study the context of the poems. Explore how the **context** has influenced the construction and meaning of the poem.
- **Revise poetic devices** such as onomatopoeia, alliteration, rhythm, rhyme, caesura, enjambment...and their effects within the poem.
- Find and map out links between the poems. These could be **connections in meaning, theme, structure or language and ideas**.
- Create a chart that displays the **connections** you find.
- Practise **writing essays** on the poems.

Section C – Unseen Poetry:

The first part (24 Marks) of this section asks you to explore the poet's presentation of ideas in a poem you haven't studied.

- Select random, unseen poems to analyse and evaluate (you could use the other section of your anthology)
- Consider the poet's feelings, attitude and ideas in the poem.
- Identify poetic devices used and their effect on the reader. Why did the poet choose them? How are they effective?
- Give any practice responses to your teacher to look at.

The second part to this section will ask you to compare two unseen poems.

- Select two random, unseen poems to analyse and evaluate. (You could use the other half of your anthology).
- Consider the poet's feelings, attitude and ideas in the poem.
- Identify poetic devices used and their effect on the reader. Why did the poet choose them? How are they effective?
- Create a list of the similarities and differences between the poems. Pay particular attention to the effects on the reader and devices used as well as the poems' meanings.
- Create a list of connectives that help you explore similarities and differences (similarly, alternatively...)
- Give any practice responses to your teacher to look at.