

# Thamesmead School Parent Partnership

## Year 10 GCSE English Language and Literature

Your child will achieve two separate qualifications, though they will sit four exams: GCSE English Language (two papers), GCSE English Literature (two papers)

<i><b>English Language</b></i>	<i><b>English Literature</b></i>
<p><b>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</b></p> <p>Section A: Reading – four questions (one literature fiction text) 40 marks Section B: Writing (descriptive or narrative) 40 marks</p> <p>1hr 45 mins 80 marks 50% of GCSE exam</p>	<p><b>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel</b></p> <p>Shakespeare: Macbeth Dickens: A Christmas Carol</p> <p>1hr 45 mins 64 marks 40% of GCSE exam</p>
<p><b>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</b></p> <p>Section A: Reading – four questions (two non-fiction texts) 40 marks Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint 40 marks</p> <p>1hr 45 mins 80 marks 50% of GCSE exam</p>	<p><b>Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry</b></p> <p>Priestley: An Inspector Calls Power and Conflict Poetry Unseen Poetry</p> <p>2 hrs 15mins 96 marks 60% of GCSE exam</p>

## Getting the basics right

Developing a short-term routine is key to reducing stress in the long term!

Develop a regular routine for completing home learning. Make sure there is a place free from distractions to work in, preferably with a desk/table to write on.

- Ensure your child has all the resources they need. For Literature: they have all been given their own copies of the modern texts, poetry anthologies, Shakespeare texts and 19th century texts.
- Ensure your child is attending any intervention or revision sessions being offered.
- The lessons are of the utmost importance – if these are not being valued or used to their full potential, they will be missing vital information.
- If they have been absent for any reason, check that they have spoken to the teacher to find out what they missed and how to catch up.
- Never say “I was never any good at English” as this can lead them to believe they may never be any good and to give up trying. Use positive reinforcement to encourage your child to do their best.
- Be aware of your child’s areas for development with SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar).
- Test them on the spellings they keep getting wrong.

## How to revise:

Some people say: “You can’t revise for English”. These people are wrong! Here are lots of practical ideas:

- Get organised! You have lots of information in your exercise book. Find it. Sort it. And use it. Remember to bring your exercise book to every English lesson, along with the book you are studying.
- Read the books! If you already have, that’s great. Read them again! Remember that much of the exams focus on testing your reading. You are expected to have read the texts a number of times, especially any key passages.

**Know what is going on. Be clear on what you are being assessed for each part of the course.**

- Know your Assessment Objectives.
- Make notes. Produce mind maps/summaries of different parts of the text / themes /characters you are studying.
- Do some practice questions! Time yourself and answer questions from past exam papers.
- Learn lots of short quotations. Don’t forget you can’t take your books into the exam.
- Get some cue cards - write 5 key quotations for each theme and each character on them and learn them! On the bus, in the car, just before bed...you get the idea. Stick them in your bag and take them with you, everywhere you go!

- Plan some literature essays. Time yourself. Spend 5 minutes writing down and then organising your ideas for different questions.
- Read lots of examples of text types you might get in the writing exam. Pick up leaflets, newspapers, magazines and letters. Look at how they are set out and think about how you can use the ideas in your own writing. Read the Sunday papers.
- Read about things you're interested in (music, films, sport, fashion etc.) on The Telegraph, Independent and The Guardian newspaper websites. They're free!
- Get into a routine. It helps to have a timetable and stick to it.
- Leave the TV and box/PS5 as a reward. Maybe don't revise in the same room as that games consoles

## Find revision resources and examples of revision tools below:

Recommended websites – revision help for you at the click of a button:

- ⇒ <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4> - BBC bitesize English Language
- ⇒ <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx> - BBC bitesize English Literature
- ⇒ <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/> - No Fear Shakespeare – translates whole Shakespeare texts
- ⇒ <https://www.shmoop.com/literature/> - Provides: summaries, quotations, analyses, questions, and quizzes - great

for Shakespeare (google Shmoop and title of play to find resources quickly – you can do the same with other texts though not all may be available. A quick google search will help!)

- ⇒ <https://www.teachwire.net/news/5-of-the-best-last-minute-gcse-english-language-revision-resources> - this website will point you in the direction of lots of free, useful revision resources and tools
- ⇒ <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources> - the AQA website contains advice and past papers (English language)
- ⇒ [https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources?start\\_rank=1](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources?start_rank=1) – the AQA website contains advice and past papers (English literature)

Useful revision guides/books:

- The CGP/York Notes guides are particularly useful for English. You can see an examples below. These guides exist for all the literature texts and there are also guides to help with the Language exam.



