



The Henry Box School  
Founded 1660

# WAYS TO REVISE ENGLISH

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

### Activities and resources

- Make sure you know what to expect in each paper.
  - Paper 1 – Explorations in creative reading and writing
  - Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints and perspectives
- Go through your notes from your class teacher on how to tackle each question on each paper. Reduce the strategies down to a short set of bullet points for each question.
- Use the knowledge organisers. Use look – cover – write – check to learn the key strategies well.
- **See the Knowledge Organisers for your Literature texts**
  - [Paper 1](#)
  - [Paper 2](#)
- Practise a lot!
  - Try past papers from here <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources> The Examiners reports can also be useful, though they often take a long time to read.
  - For Paper 1, choose one page from any fiction book and read it carefully. Write yourself a set of questions on it using the information from past papers and the knowledge organiser. A few days later answer these questions.
  - For Paper 2, choose any article from a broadsheet newspaper (such as The Telegraph or The Guardian). Write yourself a set of questions on it using the information from past papers and the knowledge organiser. A few days later answer these questions.

- Ask your teacher for any additional resources that she or he has, or that you used in class and could use again

### **Useful websites**

- BBC Bitesize  
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>
- Mr Bruff videos

### **Paper 1**

- Question 1  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ch-Xgn-luOf4&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cAlttnXkEvJXCxqT-ZzFqAN>
- Question 2  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0gDzLhfxRI>
- Question 3  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsnBllz2zqg>
- Question 4  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GeLS4hgflzY>
- Question 5  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti5CKcdwbuA>

### **Paper 2**

- Question 1  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtgpdXbSUPQ>
- Question 2  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08DWu5qfhSs>
- Question 3  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bLKDSbEihmU>
- Question 4  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD390U\\_GhwQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD390U_GhwQ)
- Question 5  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bhpgRzrs64>  
and [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFVO7j\\_hV28](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFVO7j_hV28)

### **Revision Guides**

CGP Guides have proved student friendly and thorough. We do not suggest you buy all of them; perhaps just look and see which might help you the most.

- English Language Work book  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enaw41-gcse-english-language-aqa-workbook-for>

- English Language Revision Guide  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enar41-gcse-english-language-aqa-revision-guide>
- English Language Revision and Practice  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enas42-gcse-english-language-aqa-complete-revisi>

## ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

### Activities and resources

- Make sure you know what to expect in each paper:
  - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>
  - Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th C novel
  - Paper 2 - Modern Texts and poetry
- Make sure you know each text really well. Make notes on each text on these areas:
  - **Characters** – what is each one like? How do they change over the text? Why has the writer included them?
  - **Plot**/ what happens
  - **Themes** - what are the main ideas in the text? How is it shown? What do you think the author might be trying to teach us?
  - **Key quotations** – aim to learn the most important ones by heart – along with something you can say to analyse each one.
  - **Context** - what was the world like at the time when the text was written and at the time it was set? How are these reflected in the text?
- Use the knowledge organisers. Use look – cover – write – check to learn the key information and quotations well.

## See the Knowledge Organisers for your Literature texts

- A Christmas Carol
  - An Inspector Calls
  - Frankenstein
  - Macbeth
  - Romeo and Juliet
- Practise a lot!
    - Try past papers from here <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources> The Examiners reports can also be useful, though they often take a long time to read.
    - Look at the wording of the past papers' questions. They are almost always very similar. This means you can invent your questions to answer by identifying a passage, theme or character you want to work on, then writing a question about it.

## Useful websites

- BBC Bitesize has areas for most of the texts.  
<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>
- A Christmas Carol text help  
<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/christmascarol/>
- An Inspector Calls  
<https://www.sparknotes.com/drama/an-inspector-calls/>
- Frankenstein  
<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/frankenstein/>
- Romeo and Juliet  
<https://www.shmoop.com/romeo-and-juliet/>
- Macbeth  
<https://www.shmoop.com/macbeth/>
- A useful place to find poems to practise unseen poetry with <https://www.poemhunter.com/> Try typing in either "love" or "conflict" to find poems to look at

## Revision Guides

CGP Guides have proved student friendly and thorough. We do not suggest you buy all of them; perhaps just look and see which might help you the most.

### Shakespeare

- Romeo and Juliet  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etr44-grade-9-1-gcse-english-shakespeare-text-gu>
- Macbeth  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etm43-grade-9-1-gcse-english-shakespeare-text-gu>

### 19th Century Text

- Frankenstein  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etf41-grade-9-1-gcse-english-text-guide-franke>
- A Christmas Carol  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etcc41-grade-9-1-gcse-english-text-guide-a-chr>
- The Sign of the Four  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/etsf41-grade-9-1-gcse-english-text-guide-the-s>

### Modern Text

- An Inspector Calls  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/eti44-grade-9-1-gcse-english-text-guide-an-ins>
- Never Let Me Go  
Study guides are harder to find for this text. You could look and see which one of these suits you best  
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/english/products/14-16/study-and-revise-never-let-me-go-for-gcse>

- [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Never-Let-Me-Go-Literature/dp/0008247145/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1546851532&sr=8-3&keywords=never+let+me+go+study+guide](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Never-Let-Me-Go-Literature/dp/0008247145/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1546851532&sr=8-3&keywords=never+let+me+go+study+guide)

## Poetry

- Power and Conflict  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/achr43-new-gcse-english-literature-aqa-poetry-gu>
- Love and Relationships  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/arhr43-new-gcse-english-literature-aqa-poetry-gu>
- Unseen  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/text-guides-plays/euar42-new-grade-9-1-gcse-english-literature-aqa>



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