

How to revise for *English Literature and English Language*

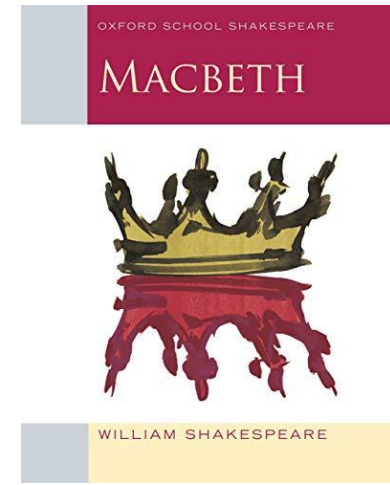


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School

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Literature Paper 1

- Candidates must answer **one question on 'Macbeth'** and **one question on 'A Christmas Carol'**.
- Both essays are worth **30 marks**, with an additional **4 SPAG marks** available for 'Macbeth'.
- Candidates are assessed on their ability to **read for meaning** and to **understand a whole text**.
- The exam is **1 hour 45 minutes long**.
- Candidates will have approximately **45 minutes on each question** after reading and planning.
- The exam is **closed book** and only **a short extract is given**.
- Candidates will be expected to **link their findings** within the extract to the rest of the text.



How do I plan?

Students should ask themselves these questions...

- ☐ What is the **quick answer** to the question? This needs to become your **thesis statement** at the start of your essay.
 - ☐ What **evidence** will I provide to support my argument?
 - ☐ What is **the purpose of the text**? What are **the writer's intentions**?
 - ☐ What **message** is the writer trying to convey to the reader?
 - ☐ Exactly **how** is this message demonstrated in this extract **and elsewhere** in the text?
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- Identify the most powerful quotations which **epitomise** these ideas.
 - **Less is more!** Selecting **the right quotation** is the key to success.
 - This **planning can be done directly on the source** to save time – highlight key words and evidence.
 - It often helps to **write down the quotes you intend to use** from elsewhere in the text, so that you don't forget them when you need them.
 - **TOP TIP! Make sure that the quotes you choose help you to answer the question!**

How do I revise for Literature?

- ✓ **Re-read** the texts. Watching adaptations of the texts or listening to audio versions can also help.
- ✓ Create a **timeline** of key plot events in the novel or play - make notes on **what happens in each act, scene or stave**.
- ✓ Create a **wall of quotes** somewhere that can be seen every day. You need to be able to quote accurately from different points across the whole text so **memorising quotes is crucial!**
- ✓ Track the **development of key characters** from the start to the middle and then to the end. *How do they change and what are the significant events that cause this?*

How do I revise for Literature?

- ✓ Make a bank of **key subject terminology and the definitions**. This is most successful when teamed with examples.
- ✓ Create a poster on the most important **historical or social events that would have influenced the writer**. *Where can these influences be seen in the text?*
- ✓ Read **model essays** that have been completed and marked.
- ✓ Complete **practice questions** in timed conditions.
- ✓ Utilise the **revision guides** given out by the teacher.
- ✓ Attend **after-school revision sessions** with your subject teacher.

Language Paper 1 (Fiction) - Section A

READING SECTION – 1 HOUR (15 MINS SUGGESTED READING TIME)

Q1 – Multiple choice (4 marks)

Q2 – Focus on the effects of language (8 marks)

2 to 3 detailed paragraphs

Q3 – Focus on the effects of structure (8 marks)

2 to 3 detailed paragraphs

Q4 – To what extent... Focus on **evaluating** the success of **language and structure**, in light of a statement (20 marks)

4 to 5 detailed paragraphs

Language Paper 1 (Fiction) - Section B

What do I have to do?

You must respond to ONE task from a choice of two.

You need to write creatively on a given topic or stimulus.

The stimulus could be a picture, scenario or title. This is intended as a starting point, i.e. it's there to get you going, not to limit you.

There are 24 marks available for style, tone, ideas, techniques and structure.

There are 16 marks available for vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

You have 45 minutes for this section.

PLAN your answer and then aim to write 2½ to 3 sides.

Section B – Writing Techniques and Skills

You could include...

- Interesting verbs
- Sophisticated adjectives
- Similes, metaphors and personification
- Juxtaposition or contrasts
- Repetition and reiteration of words
- Shift in perspective – big to small/outside to inside
- Interesting narrative perspective
- Isolated words or sentences
- Flashbacks or flashforwards

You should consider...

Semi-colons

Colons

Accurate use of apostrophes

Range of verbs, adverbs and prepositions to open your sentences/paragraphs

Top Tips!

- ✓ If you choose to use the image provided, remember that you can go beyond the picture – imagine what else you might see if you look around a corner; consider what might be inside one of the buildings.
- ✓ If the task asks you to write a story, imagine it's a chapter from a longer piece – the examiner won't expect you to be able to write the whole story in 45 minutes!
- ✓ Show off what you know about language methods, structural features, vocabulary and punctuation; however, use these things wisely so that it doesn't feel like you're ticking a box.

Which are the trickiest questions?

- Paper 1, Question 3 (how writers use structure)
- Paper 1, Question 4 (To what extent...?)

TOP TIP! Q4 and Q5 are the most heavily weighted questions on the Language paper so these questions need the greatest revision and practise at home.

How do I revise for Language?

- ✓ Complete mock-up/**practice papers**.
- ✓ Make a bank of **methods and the definitions**. Divide the methods into **structure** and **language** by using two different colours.
- ✓ Make sure you know exactly what **each question** on each paper is asking you to do.
- ✓ Practise **timings** for each question.
- ✓ Read over questions and PRs that have been completed and marked. What are the **weaker questions** that need **your** personal attention?
- ✓ Go to **GCSE Pod** or refer to the **revision guides** that you've been given.
- ✓ Attend **after-school revision sessions** with your subject teacher.

Reminders!

- Read the Qs before you read the source.
- **Stick to timings!** Follow the rule ‘a mark a minute’ to answer.
- If needed, **claw back some minutes from Q1 and Q5.**
- **ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS!**

TOP TIP! Social media influencers are not teachers! Relying on Tik Tok videos and memorising content for Q5 is not effective and often results in lower grades. The examiners want to hear your opinions and see your imagination at work – your work will be escalated if they think it is learned or plagiarised.