

Mrs Butcher

HEAD OF ENGLISH

I don't know where
to start

Do I just re-read
the core texts?

How do I support my son/daughter in
preparing for the English Exams?

I have so many notes, but
don't know what to do
with them

GCSEs – What you need to know

- Students at King's will study the Edexcel English Language and English Literature courses
- There are no tiers of entry- all sit the same exam
- Each student will sit 2 English Language papers and 2 English Literature papers
- A set of core skills are tested, including analysing the impact of language and structure, evaluation and comparison. A thorough application of context is also required.
- There is a Spoken Language Component, which is assessed but does not count towards their final grade in either Language or Literature. These will be carried out and filmed at the end of Year 10

English Language

Both of these will be sat in the Term 5 Year 10 exams



Paper 1

Fiction and Imaginative Writing

Overview of assessment

40% of the total GCSE

- Section A – Reading: 4 questions on an unseen 19th-century fiction extract.
- Section B – Writing: a choice of two writing tasks. The tasks are linked by a theme to the reading extract.
- The total number of marks available is 64.
- Assessment duration 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2

Non-fiction and Transactional Writing

Overview of assessment

60% of the total GCSE

- Section A – Reading: 7 questions on two thematically linked, unseen non-fiction extracts.
- Section B – Writing: a choice of two writing tasks. The tasks are linked by a theme to the reading extracts.
- The total number of marks available is 96.
- Assessment duration: 2 hours and 5 minutes

English Literature

Only Paper 1 will be sat in the Term 5 Year 10 exams



Paper 1

Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature

Overview of assessment

50% of the total GCSE

- Section A – Shakespeare: a two-part question, with the first task focused on an extract of approximately 30 lines. The second task is focused on how a theme reflected in the extract is explored elsewhere in the play.
- Section B – Post-1914 British play or novel: ONE essay question.
- The total number of marks available is 80.
- Assessment duration: 1 hour and 45 minutes.
- Closed book (texts are not allowed in the examination).

Paper 2

19th-century Novel and Poetry since 1789

Overview of assessment

50% of the total GCSE

- Section A – 19th-century novel: a two part question, with the first part focussed on an extract of approximately 400 words. The second part is an essay question exploring the whole text.
- Section B – Part 1: ONE question comparing a named poem from the Pearson Poetry Anthology collection to another poem from that collection. The named poem will be shown in the question paper. Part 2: ONE question comparing two unseen contemporary poems.
- The total number of marks available is 80.
- Assessment duration: 2 hours and 15 minutes.
- Closed book (texts are not allowed in the examination).



Core Texts Studied

- Macbeth: Shakespeare- Year 10
- Poetry from the Edexcel Anthology-Conflict cluster only- Year 10/11
- An Inspector Calls: J. B. Priestly- Year 10
- A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens- Year 11

To Succeed in English...

- Students need the confidence to express their own ideas and interpretations about texts, supporting these ideas with carefully selected evidence and linking in context.
- It is **vital**, therefore, that they know their texts really thoroughly.

Research to develop confidence in the key **contexts** of the texts- Jacobean England, Victorian England- realise that texts are a product of their time

Watch the film interpretations to help with engagement.

Go on the VLE to access Department study guides and revision activities

Here's what you can do at home: Focus on the **knowledge**

Memorise the plotlines of the core texts! This is an absolute starting point. Try **summarising** each chapter/act in no more than 10 words.

Buy the **study guides**- there are a huge range out there.

Use **post-it notes, mind maps, flip notes** to learn key quotations and put them up in bedrooms/around the house.

There are a plethora of **online resources/study guides**- Sparknotes, BBC Bitesize, Youtube lessons

Other sources of information

- **KS4 teams folder**- sample papers to work through in addition to the revision booklets made by the English Department for each area of the exam
- Using **mock papers**- book time with me during **tutor time**
- **GCSE pod**- can download so listen offline
- **Revision videos**- plenty on Youtube, for example Mr Bruff and Click Revision
- **Post-it** key quotations around the house
- Watch **live performances** of the core texts. Read critic's reviews of them.

