

Never Stop Flying

English

Achieving Excellence through a Values Driven Education

How to revise for GCSE English Language and Literature



Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number

Candidate number

Surname _____

Forename(s) _____

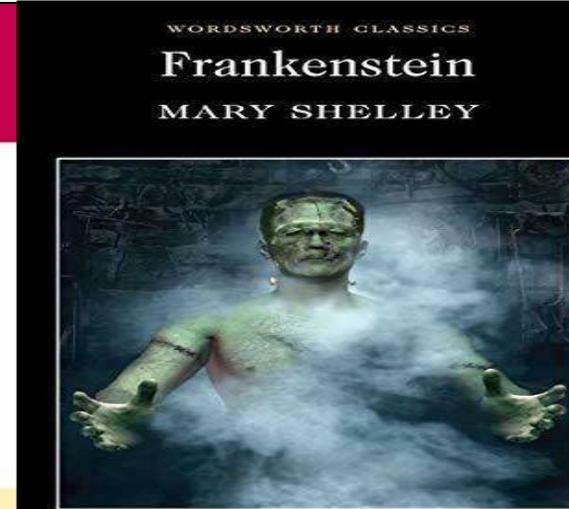
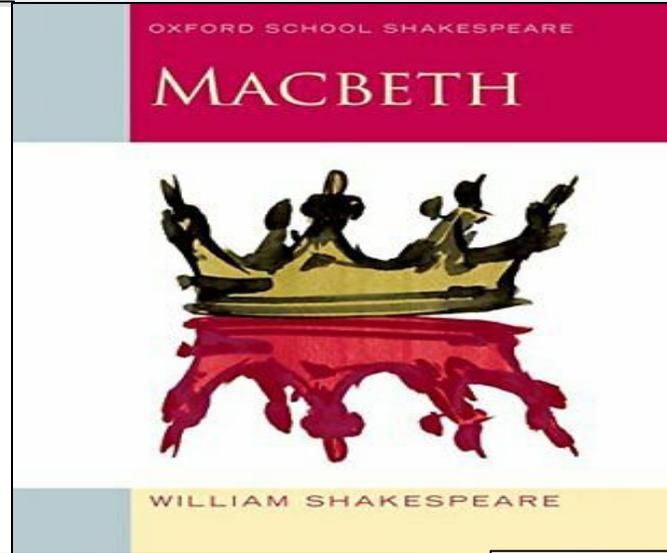
Candidate signature _____

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes



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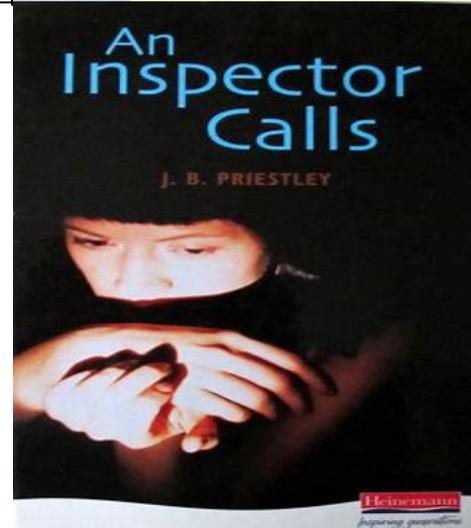
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GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes



unseen



Exam Breakdown

English Language

English Language Paper 1 – 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /80 (50% of GCSE English Language qualification)

- Read one fiction extract.
- Section A: Answer 4 reading questions in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**
- Section B: Plan and write a narrative or descriptive piece in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**

English Language Paper 2 - 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /80 (50% of GCSE English Language qualification)

- Read two non-fiction articles or extracts.
- Section A: Answer 4 reading questions in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**
- Section B: Plan and write an argumentative or persuasive piece in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**

Spoken Language Assessment

- Complete a speaking and listening task in class. This does not count towards your GCSE English Language qualification but you will be awarded a separate Spoken Language certificate at Pass, Merit or Distinction level.

English Literature

English Literature Paper 1 - 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /64 (40% of GCSE English Literature qualification)

- Section A: Plan and write an essay exploring how a character and/or theme is presented in Macbeth in 45 minutes. You will be given an extract from the play. **Mark /34 (4 for SPaG)**
- Section B: Plan and write an essay exploring how a character and/or theme is presented in Frankenstein in 45 minutes. You will be given an extract from the novel. **Mark /30**

English Literature Paper 2 - 2hr 15 mins

Total marks /96 (60% of GCSE English Literature qualification)

- Section A: Plan and write an essay exploring how a character and/or theme is presented in An Inspector Calls in 45 minutes. You will be given an extract from the play. **Mark /34 (4 for SPaG)**
- Section B: Plan and write an essay comparing how a theme is presented in two poems from the Power and Conflict anthology in 45 minutes. One poem is given to you in the exam. **Mark /30**
- Section C1: Plan and write an essay exploring how a theme is presented in an Unseen poem in 40 minutes. You will be given the unseen poem. **Mark /24**
- Section C2: Compare how poets use techniques to present a theme in the first unseen poem and a second unseen poem you are given in 5 minutes. **Mark /8**



GCSE English Language – Stages of Revision	What do I need to know?	How will I know if I have completed this stage?	What can I do to complete this stage?
Stage 1: Fundamental Knowledge Complete by January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> How to answer Question 1-4 on Paper 1 <input type="checkbox"/> How to answer Question 1-4 on Paper 2 <input type="checkbox"/> How to write a good narrative or descriptive piece for Paper 1 Question 5 <input type="checkbox"/> How to write a good argumentative or persuasive piece for Paper 2 Question 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Timings for each question <input type="checkbox"/> Reading skills and speed <input type="checkbox"/> Writing strength and stamina to complete the paper 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain what to do for Question 1-4 on Paper 1 and 2? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain how to write a good narrative or descriptive piece for Paper 1 Question 5? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain how to write a good argumentative or persuasive piece for Paper 2 Question 5? <input type="checkbox"/> Read 2 articles (about a side of A4 each) in 15 minutes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Access revision materials on the English Department Intranet site and MS Teams <input type="checkbox"/> Read the CGP revision guides <input type="checkbox"/> Watch English Department and Mr Bruff revision videos
Stage 2: Developing Understanding Complete by February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Information retrieval for P1Q1 and P2Q1 <input type="checkbox"/> Language analysis for P1Q2 and P2Q3 <input type="checkbox"/> Structural analysis for P1Q3 <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation and language analysis for P1Q4 <input type="checkbox"/> Inference and comparison for P2Q2 <input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of writers’ attitudes and comparison for P2Q4 <input type="checkbox"/> Using SPaG accurately for P1 and P2Q5 <input type="checkbox"/> Using a broad vocabulary for P1 and P2Q5 <input type="checkbox"/> Using descriptive language for P1Q5 <input type="checkbox"/> Forming an argument for P2Q5 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Find quotations within an extract? <input type="checkbox"/> Analyse words and language techniques in detail? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain why a writer places events/characters at the beginning, middle and end of an extract? <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluate how a writer presents a character/theme? <input type="checkbox"/> Compare the attitudes of writers in 2 extracts? <input type="checkbox"/> Use descriptive writing techniques? <input type="checkbox"/> Form an argument? <input type="checkbox"/> Use SPaG and a broad vocabulary accurately? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make revision materials on the strategies and skills you will need to use for each question. <input type="checkbox"/> Practise reading a range of fiction extracts for information and analyse language and structure <input type="checkbox"/> Practise reading non-fiction extracts and analyse how a writer presents their attitude <input type="checkbox"/> Use a thesaurus to improve your vocabulary <input type="checkbox"/> Learn and use a bank of 20 impressive words <input type="checkbox"/> Use BBC Bitesize to develop your understanding of grammar and punctuation
Stage 3: Exam Practice Complete by June 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Answer past paper questions from Paper 1 and Paper 2 in the time you would have in the exam <input type="checkbox"/> Complete whole past papers 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete individual questions in the time you would have in the exam? <input type="checkbox"/> Complete a past paper in 1 hour 45 minutes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write answers and essay plans to past paper questions (available from the English Department) <input type="checkbox"/> Complete KIPs and Trial Exams and use your answers as part of your revision <input type="checkbox"/> Use the student-friendly mark scheme to self assess your work

GCSE English Literature – Stages of Revision	What do I need to know?	How will I know if I have completed this stage?	What can I do to complete this stage?
Stage 1: Fundamental Knowledge Complete by January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The plot and key characters of Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls <input type="checkbox"/> The events and key themes of each of the 15 Power and Conflict poems <input type="checkbox"/> The requirements of the Unseen Poetry questions 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain who the key characters are in Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain the plot of Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain what happens in each of the 15 poems? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain how to answer the Unseen poetry questions? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Read plot summaries. <input type="checkbox"/> Access revision materials on the English Department Intranet site and MS Teams <input type="checkbox"/> Watch accurate film versions of Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Read the CGP revision guides and Flipsco cue cards <input type="checkbox"/> Watch English Department and Mr Bruff revision videos
Stage 2: Developing Understanding Complete by February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Key themes in Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls <input type="checkbox"/> 6-7 Power and Conflict poems in depth (2-3 war, 2-3 personal, 2-3 nature and Kamikaze) <input type="checkbox"/> How to answer the unseen question 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explain what the key themes are in Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain which characters show these themes? <input type="checkbox"/> Explain the key themes in 6-7 Power and Conflict poems? <input type="checkbox"/> Analyse 3-4 quotations per theme/character/poem? <input type="checkbox"/> Explore 2-3 wider ideas/points of context per theme/character/poem? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make essay plans on key characters and themes in Macbeth, Frankenstein and An Inspector Calls <input type="checkbox"/> Make essay plans comparing how themes are presented in Power and Conflict poems <input type="checkbox"/> Complete the Power and Conflict poetry grid <input type="checkbox"/> Include context and wider ideas in your essay plans
Stage 3: Exam Practice Complete by May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Answer past paper questions on Macbeth, Frankenstein, An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry in timed conditions. 	<p>Can you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write an essay on how a character/theme is presented in Macbeth/Frankenstein/Power and Conflict poetry in 45 minutes? <input type="checkbox"/> Write an answer to Unseen Poetry question 1 and 2 in 50 minutes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Write answers and essay plans to past paper questions <input type="checkbox"/> Complete Assessments and Trial Exams and use your answers as part of your essay plans <input type="checkbox"/> Use the student-friendly mark scheme to self assess your work

English Language

English Language

English Language Paper 1 – 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /80 (50% of GCSE English Language qualification)

- Read one fiction extract.
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- Section B: Plan and write a narrative or descriptive piece in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**

English Language Paper 2 - 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /80 (50% of GCSE English Language qualification)

- Read two non-fiction articles or extracts.
- Section A: Answer 4 reading questions in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**
- Section B: Plan and write an argumentative or persuasive piece in 45 minutes. **Mark /40**

What to do for revision?

Make an Essential Knowledge Sheet detailing what you have to do for each question and the time you should spend on each question.

Use your exercise book alongside CGP revision guides, Mr Bruff, BBC Bitesize and other sources to fill in any gaps in your revision.

Get past papers and answer the questions in timed conditions:

Paper 1:

Reading and planning time: 15 minutes

Q1 – 5 minutes Q2 – 10 minutes Q3 – 10 minutes

Q4 – 20 minutes

Q5 – Planning 5 minutes, writing 35 minutes, checking 5 minutes

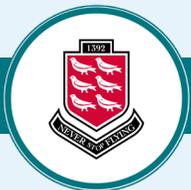
Paper 2:

Reading and planning time: 15 minutes

Q1 – 5 minutes Q2 – 10 minutes Q3 – 10 minutes

Q4 – 20 minutes

Q5 – Planning 5 minutes, writing 35 minutes, checking 5 minutes



English Literature

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English Literature Paper 1 - 1hr 45 mins

Total marks /64 (40% of GCSE English Literature qualification)

- Section A: Plan and write an essay exploring how a character and/or theme is presented in Macbeth in 45 minutes. You will be given an extract from the play. **Mark /34 (4 for SPaG)**
- Section B: Plan and write an essay exploring how a character and/or theme is presented in Frankenstein in 45 minutes. You will be given an extract from the novel. **Mark /30**

English Literature Paper 2 – 2hr 15 mins

Total marks /96 (60% of GCSE English Literature qualification)

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- Section C2: Compare how poets use techniques to present a theme in the first unseen poem and a second unseen poem you are given in 5 minutes. **Mark /8**

What to do for revision?

Make an Essential Knowledge Sheet for each major character in Frankenstein and Macbeth, 6-7 of the poems (2x man, 2x war, 2x nature) and what you need to do for the unseen questions.

Use your exercise books alongside CGP revision guides, Mr Bruff, BBC Bitesize and other sources to fill in any gaps in your revision.

Get past papers and answer the questions in timed conditions:

Paper 1 Macbeth and Frankenstein:

Reading and planning time: 15 minutes

Macbeth: 45 minutes

Frankenstein: 45 minutes

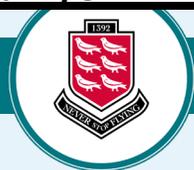
Paper 2 An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict and Unseen:

An Inspector Calls: 45 minutes (5 plan, 40 write)

Power and Conflict poetry: 45 minutes (5 plan, 40 write)

Unseen Question 1: 40 minutes (5 plan, 35 write)

Unseen Question 2: 5 plan and write



Top Tips for Revision

1. Make a revision timetable – there is an example on the next slide. Take into account other commitments you have and break your work into subsections, e.g. don't just revise Literature, focus on Macbeth, Frankenstein etc. You may need to make one each week as you get closer to the exam and commitments change!
2. Use the Pomodoro method when revising – break your revision up into 30 minute sessions where you work for 25 minutes, then break for 5.
After 4x25 minute blocks, rest for slightly longer and then restart.
3. A lot of students worry about remembering quotations for Literature. The easiest way is to write down short quotations, repeat them and test yourself regularly on them. If you can learn song lyrics, you can learn quotations! Please remember that learning quotations is important, but you must also be able to analyse words from them in detail for marks!
4. When answering any question, read the question before the extract/source. This will mean that you are reading the extract with a focus on the words in the question rather than wasting time just reading.

