



Soar Valley College

A SPECIALIST MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE

GCSE English Language and Literature Information for Parents (2019)

ASPIRE ENJOY ACHIEVE



Your child is studying two English GCSEs

LANGUAGE

- Two exams: 1¾ hour and 2 hours
- Completely unseen texts
- 20th narrative fiction
- Creative writing
- Comparison of 19th and 21st century non-fiction extracts
- Persuasive or transactional writing

LITERATURE

- Two exams: 2 hour and 2½ hour
- Closed book exams
- Shakespeare play
- Poetry Anthology
- An Inspector Calls
- A Christmas Carol
- Comparison of two unseen poems



There are lots of skills and question types to practise.

English Language

- Search for and find information
- Exploring the writer's written techniques and methods
- Synthesising information from two unseen texts
- Comparing two texts with a very specific focus
- Evaluating texts (making a judgement based on a statement)
- Making a thoughtful choice and then writing a narrative
- Two transactional written tasks

English Literature

- Unseen poetry comparison: question is the same but the poems will be different
- Prose/plays: thematic or character based.
- Anthology poetry: the question is more-or-less the same BUT the theme will change.

Students **SHOULD** have question stems and lots of examples within their folders.



0 1

Read lines 1-7.

List five things you learn about Ruby Lennox in these lines.

0 2

Read lines 8-23.

What impress-

[40]

Choose one of the following titles for your writing:

Either,

1 1

a) A Memorable Weekend.

Or,

1 1

b) Write about a time when you had to make a difficult choice or decision.

Or,

1 1

c) Write a story which begins:

“You are not staying here on your own. Get in the car now,” my mum said in that voice which did not allow any argument.



0	8
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An Inspector Calls

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this question.

You should use the extract below and your knowledge of the whole play to answer this question.

Write about Mr Birling and how he is presented at different points in the play.

In your response you should:

- refer to the extract and the play as a whole
- show your understanding of characters and events in the play [40]

5 of this question's marks are allocated for accuracy in spelling, punctuation and the use of vocabulary and sentence structures.



Between 20 and 30 minutes of reading a day (this could be their Lit texts, but not always)

“High quality” fiction titles
Use the library

Range of reading materials

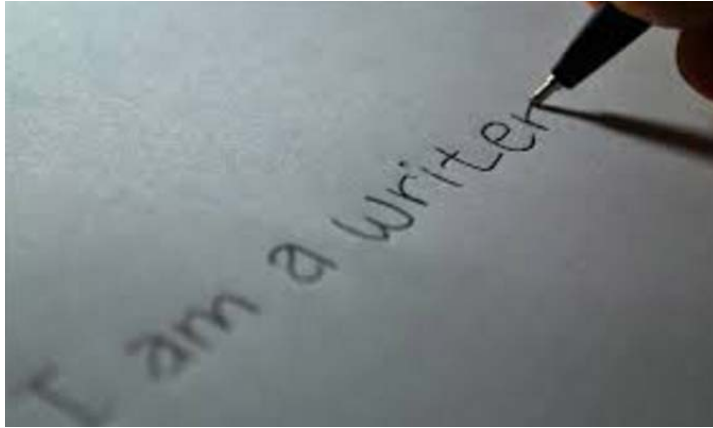
Biographies
News articles
Comment pieces
Travelogues

Reading is the **KEY** to learning

Reading helps your child:

- develop their ability to understand increasingly challenging texts;
- develop strategies to tackle new and unfamiliar words;
- increase their vocabulary;
- improve their reading speed;
- increase their confidence in forming their own opinions.

Speak to your child about what they're reading; what they think about characters; ideas; writers' intentions etc.



Reading and understanding the question before planning their answer.



Writing their answers: about five thoughtful paragraphs



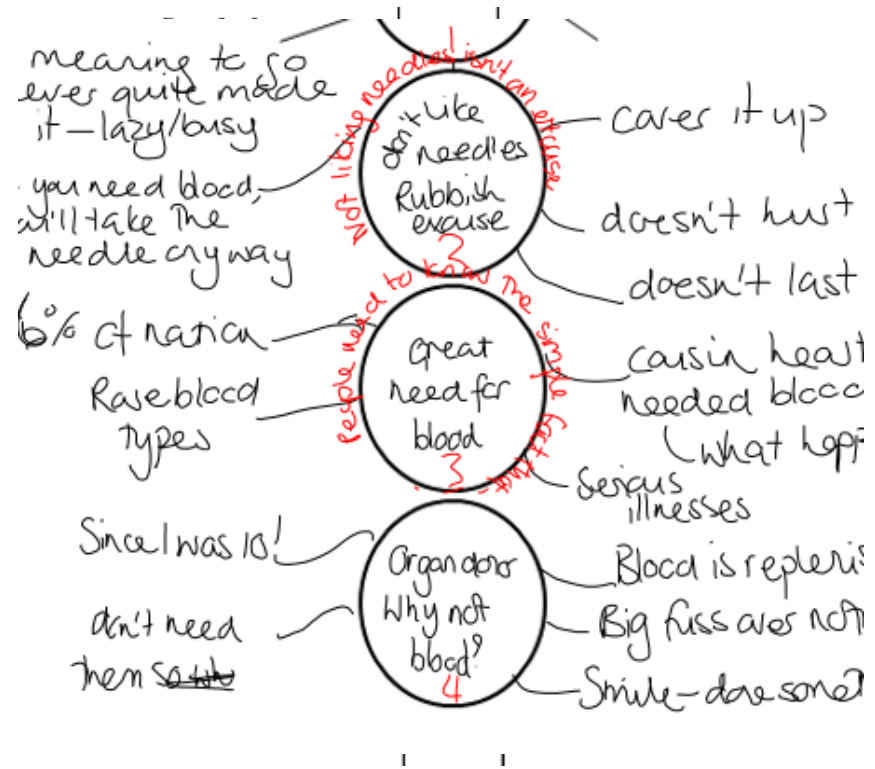
Proofreading their answers.



Students who practise and improve the effectiveness of their planning, are more likely to meet their potential in their exams because...



- encourages thoughtful and responsive content;
- helps sequence ideas in a more coherent manner.



Realistically, students will have between 2 and 3 minutes to read and understand the question as well as to write a plan.



Students who proof read can improve their writing, on average, by about a grade.



Students can practise this skill in any subject area, in class, as homework and within their revision.

Accurate use of things like capital letters, full stops, apostrophes and homophones are a key expectation of the majority of students.



Mum was now 7 months into pregnancy and had a massive tummy. We all sat together after dinner to watch the finals of India's got talent. But I just stared at my mum's tummy and pretended talking to my brother. I knew he was listening because he kept moving around! But then I got told I had to go to sleep ^{when} but I wanted to see who won IGT! I was then li forced to be like that. An

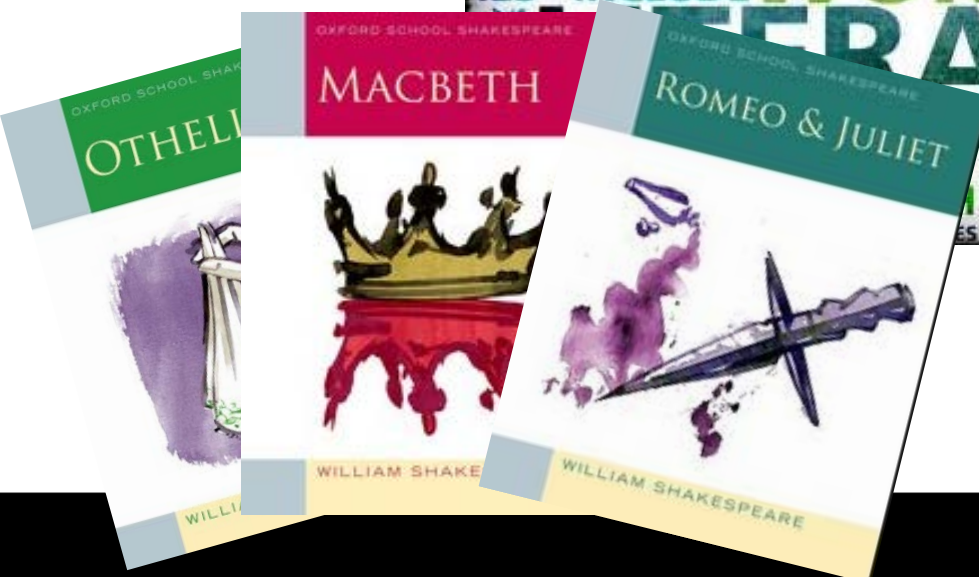
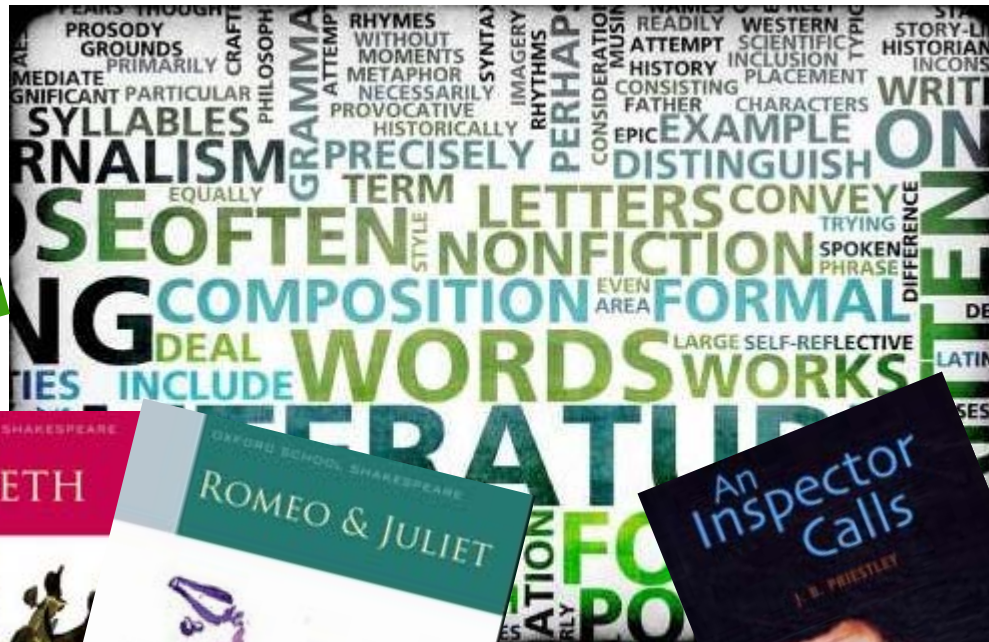
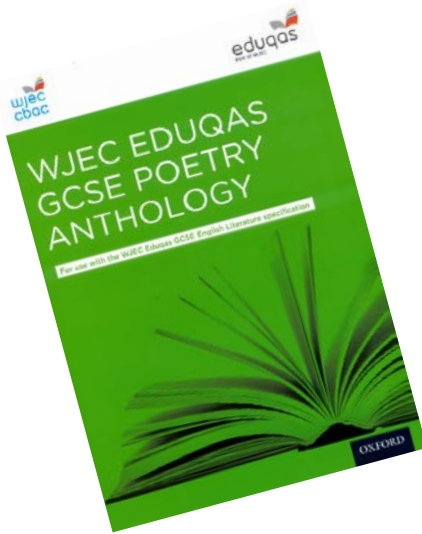
Have you proof read your homework?





There's no substitute for reading the texts

Audio versions are available on YouTube or for purchase



INSPIRE ENJOY... EVE



Revising literature isn't writing lots of essays

Spending time thinking and forming ideas about things like themes, characters and their relationships is key to writing a thoughtful essay.

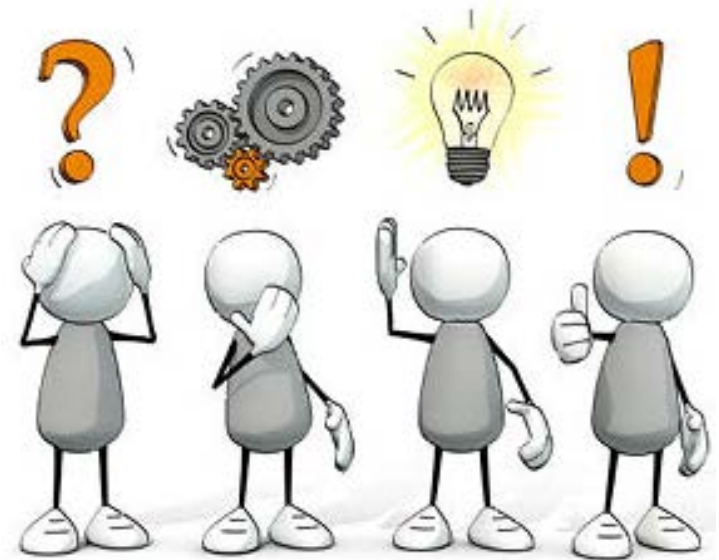


- Mind maps
- Theme trees
- Timelines
- Profiles
- Word banks
- Quote banks
- PixLit



Revising literature

- Writing a great English Literature essay is a **process**.
- After the **knowledge** comes the **application**.
- Good **planning** skills are, again, key.
- More **confidence** in their ideas
- Quicker planning = **time to write**
- Ideas that go beyond repeating those from lesson or revision guides
- **Better understanding**





There are a host of online resources

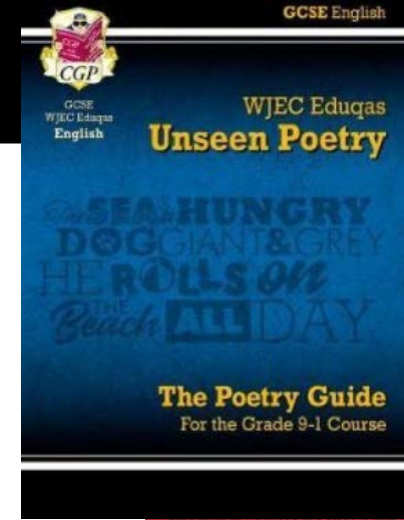
- Youtube is great for watching key scenes of the plays that are being studied
- Revision seminars produced by other students studying the same texts
- GCSE Bitesize
- SAM Learning
- PixLit

- We have a revision folder that is constantly being added to for Year 11. It can be accessed through Student Resources.



Revision books

- We have revision guides for both GCSEs.
- The school library also has a section of revision books that students can borrow.

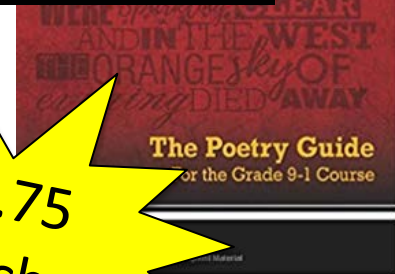


WJEC Eduqas
Unseen Poetry

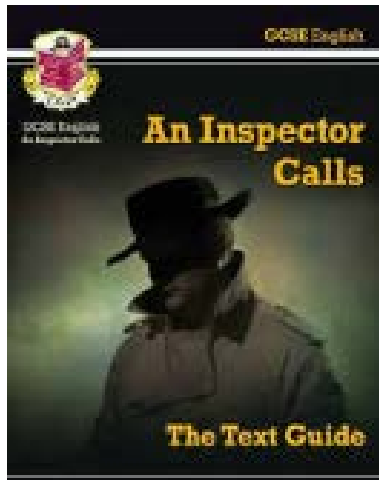
The Poetry Guide
For the Grade 9-1 Course



£2.75
each

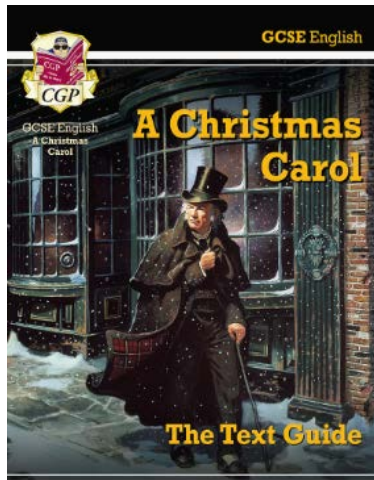


The Poetry Guide
For the Grade 9-1 Course



An Inspector Calls

The Text Guide



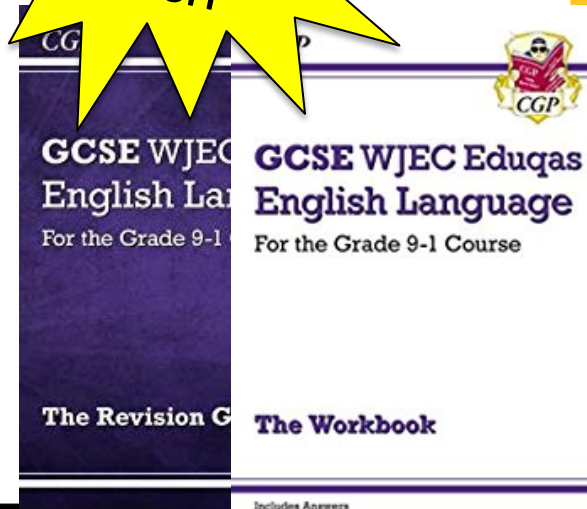
A Christmas Carol

The Text Guide



Romeo & Juliet

The Text Guide



GCSE WJEC English Language
For the Grade 9-1 Course

The Revision Guide

GCSE WJEC Eduqas English Language
For the Grade 9-1 Course

The Workbook



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