

# The English Department



**Mrs. J. Webber**  
Head of English

*Prepare, Aspire, Succeed*



**GCSE (9-1)**

- ▶ **There are no current changes to the English Language specification or the planned examinations as of this moment.**

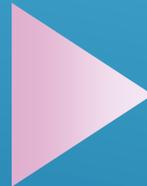
**AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE**

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# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Prepare

**Paper 1:**  
Explorations  
in Creative  
Reading  
and Writing



**50%** of  
GCSE  
English  
Language.



Prepare

# PAPER 1: 1 HOUR AND 45 MINUTES

**Reading:  
Worth 50%  
of the  
marks.**

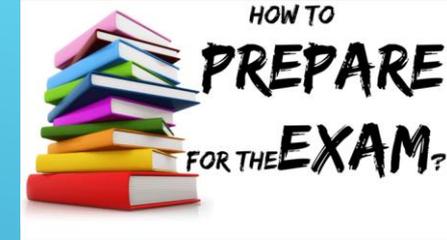
Students are provided with an extract from a text – usually a short story or the beginning of a novel – and they are given **15 minutes** to actively read and annotate it.

Next, they have to answer **4** questions which test different reading skills. (**45 Minutes**)

**Writing: Worth 50% of  
the marks**

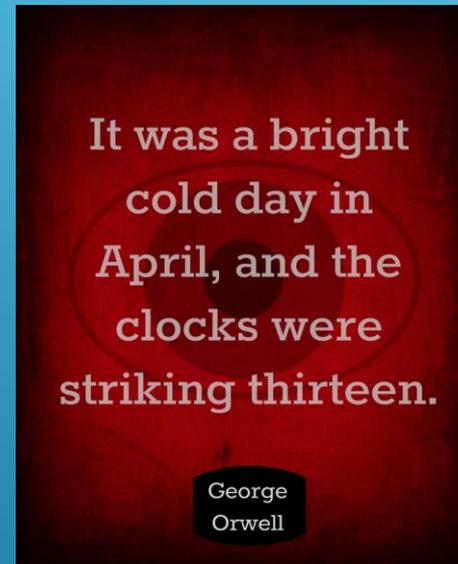
Students have a choice of two tasks: Usually, there is a picture and students are asked to write a description. Or, they have to write a narrative (story). Occasionally, the question about the picture will ask them to write a story and the alternative task will be to describe an experience that they have had. (**45 Minutes**)

# HOW TO PREPARE: READING



☐ Read lots of different beginnings of stories and practise the set questions:

- ☐ **Q1: Comprehension**
- ☐ **Q2: Analysis of Language**
- ☐ **Q3: Structure**
- ☐ **Q4: Evaluation**

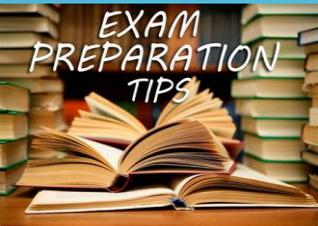


# HOW TO PREPARE: WRITING



- ▶ Prepare lots of descriptions of places and people. The photographs tend to be of locations, modes of transport, interesting characters. By practising writing about lots of different people, places and things, you will develop a repertoire of phrases that you should be able to use in the examination.





## HOW TO PREPARE WRITING (2)

- ▶ **Remember:** 'SPaG' is worth **16** out of **40** Marks.
- ▶ Think carefully about the punctuation you use. Try to vary it and create effects through it.

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Prepare

**Paper 2:**  
Writers'  
Viewpoints  
and  
Perspectives



**50%** of  
GCSE  
English  
Language.



Prepare

# PAPER 2: 1 HOUR AND 45 MINUTES

**Reading: Worth 50% of the marks.**

Students are given **15** minutes to **actively** read two non-fiction extracts. One is usually a Nineteenth Century text and one is more modern.

Next, they have to answer **4** questions which test different reading skills. (**45** Minutes)

**Writing worth 50% of the marks**

Students are required to write a non-fiction response to a given statement. (**45** Minutes)

Read lots of **non-fiction** articles – especially newspaper articles from present day and in the past. (Victorian)

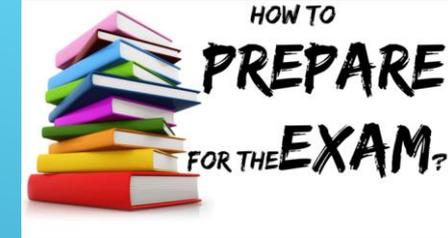
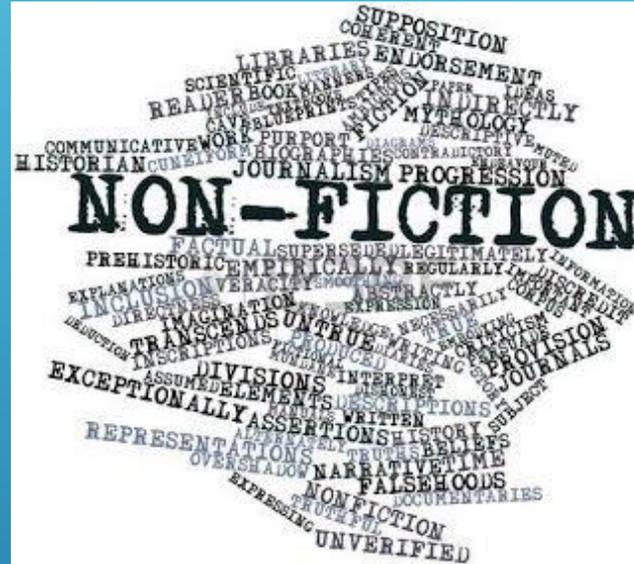
**Practise** Reading Skills:

**Q1:** Comprehension

**Q2:** Inference

**Q3:** Analysis of language

**Q4:** Comparing perspectives



# HOW TO PREPARE: READING

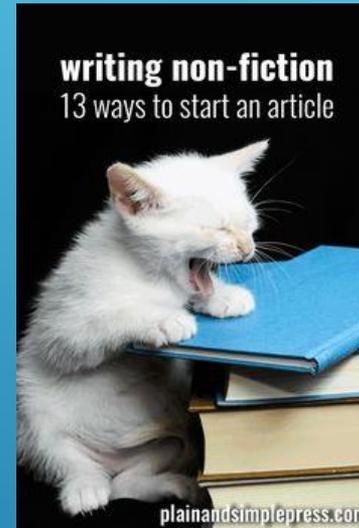
# HOW TO PREPARE: WRITING

- ▶ **Practise** writing different types of non-fiction texts such as:

**Letters / Newspaper articles /  
Speeches / Essays.**

Try to vary your writing to suit different audiences and purposes.

**Again, SPaG is worth 16 out of 40 Marks.**



▶ **The Mocks will be in a 2 week period:**

**November W/B:** 22<sup>nd</sup> November

English Language Paper 1 and Paper 2.

**March W/B:** 1<sup>st</sup> March

English Language Paper 1 and Paper 2.

**MOCK EXAMINATIONS**

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# ▶ Spoken Language

**STUDENTS DELIVER A 2 MINUTE SPEECH  
ON A TOPIC OF INTEREST TO THEM.**

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Over Lockdown, students planned and wrote a 2 minute persuasive speech on a topic that interests them.

They need to be preparing to perform this speech by learning it and by using cue-cards to help them remember the key points.

**We are planning to carry out the Spoken Language assessments just after the November Mock examinations.**

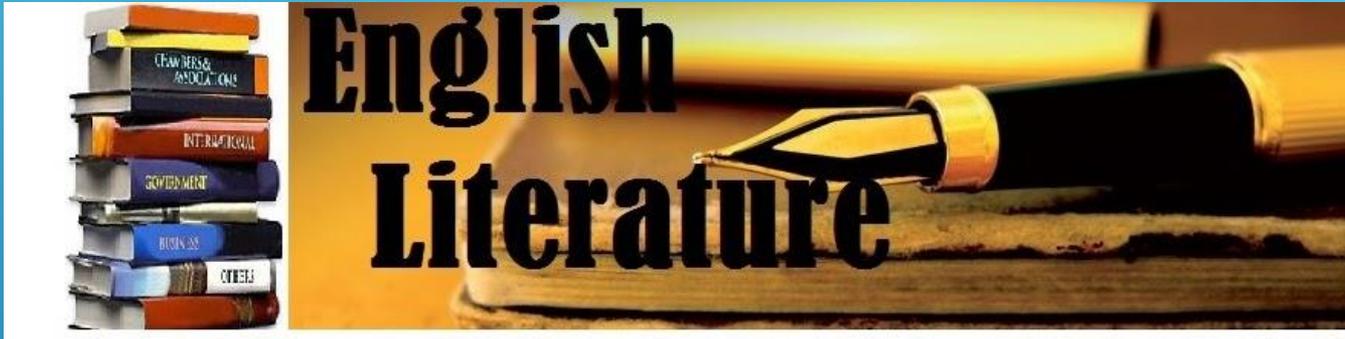
Students will be awarded a: **Pass, Merit or Distinction.**

This award will be a stand-alone qualification.

**HOW TO PREPARE FOR SPOKEN LANGUAGE.**

- ▶ Students will still have to perform the 2 minute speech that they wrote in Lockdown but this could be performed remotely if there is another Lockdown or a student is in isolation when the assessment is carried out.
- ▶ There is no requirement for the school to film any of the students' speeches which we normally have to do.
- ▶ Students do not have to perform their speeches in front of a whole class, they can just deliver their speech to the class teacher.

## CHANGES TO SPOKEN LANGUAGE



**AQA HAS ALTERED ITS ADVICE AND HAS PUT IN PLACE EXTRA CHANGES TO THE PLANNED GCSE LITERATURE EXAMINATIONS.**

Prepare

# ENGLISH LITERATURE : CHANGES

Paper 1: 60  
marks

**Choice of 2:**

Poetry Anthology

19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Novel

Modern Prose or  
Drama



Paper 2: 66 marks

**Compulsory:**

Section A:  
Shakespeare

Section B:  
Unseen Poetry

Section C:  
Unseen Comparison

▶ **AQA state that:**

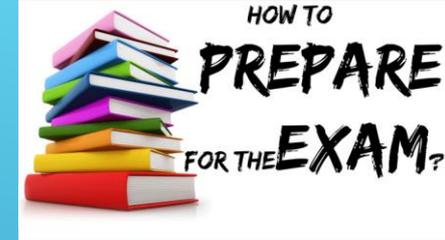
'We'll be asking you which options your students will be taking when you make your entries by 21 February. This is so we can make sure we've got all the right examiners in place. You'll be able to pick different options for different students if you like – there's no need to choose a single option for everyone unless you want to.'

- ▶ As a Centre, we are in a fortunate position in that, students will have been taught all three of the texts in Paper 1.
- ▶ We will keep you and your child informed when we have further clarification of what this is likely to mean and how we best revise texts with your child.

## **WHAT THESE CHANGES MEAN:**

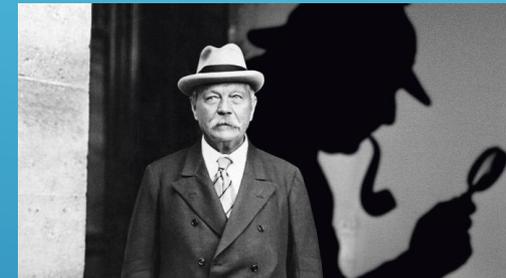
# HOW TO PREPARE FOR LITERATURE:

- Re-read the text and make additional annotations – students should always be actively reading. This means they should be annotating for key plot developments, highlighting key quotations, exploring the effect of language and structure and making connections across the whole text.
- Use the Cottesloe School Literature revision websites and complete key tasks.

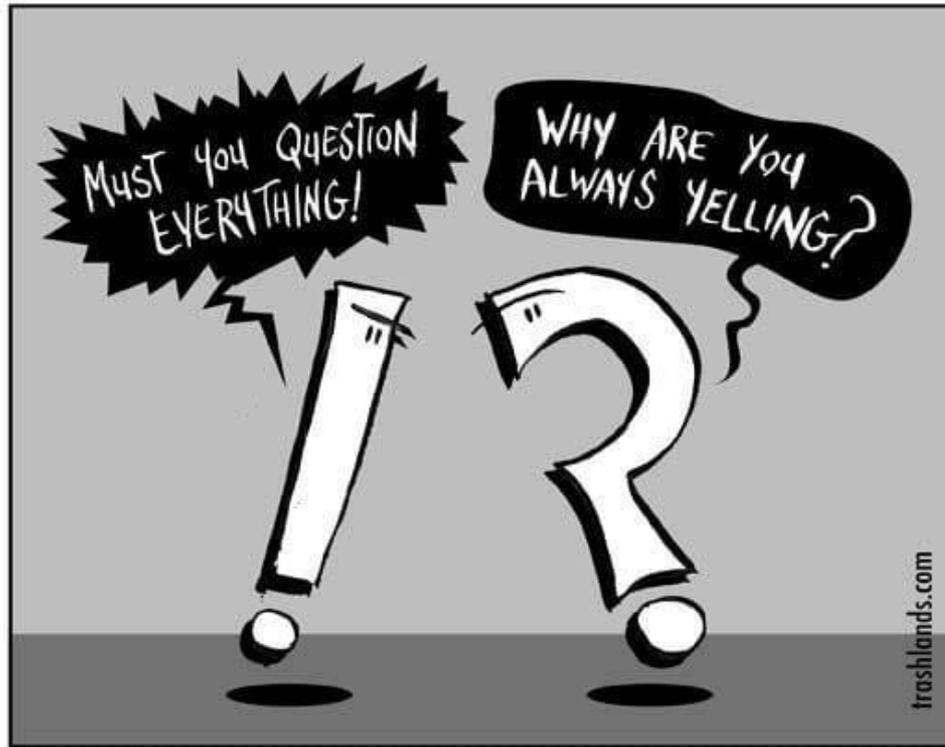


**THINGS WE SAY TODAY,  
WHICH WE OWE TO,  
SHAKESPEARE:**

"KNOCK, KNOCK! WHO'S THERE?" "HEART OF GOLD"  
"IN A PICKLE" "SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE"  
"FAINT HEARTED" "SO-SO" "GOOD RIDDANCE"  
"LIE LOW" "FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE" "BAITED BREATH" "SEND HIM PACKING"  
"COME WHAT MAY"  
"THE GAME IS UP"  
"WEAR YOUR HEART ON YOUR SLEEVE"  
"NOT SLEPT ONE WINK" "FULL CIRCLE" "OUT OF THE JAWS OF DEATH"  
"TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING"  
"WHAT'S DONE IS DONE" "NAKED TRUTH" "BREAK THE ICE" "WILD GOOSE CHASE"  
"LAUGHING STOCK" "BREADED HIS LAST"  
"HEART OF HEARTS" "VANISH INTO THIN AIR"  
"SEEN BETTER DAYS" "MAKES YOUR HAIR STAND ON END"  
"DEAD AS A DOORNAIL" "FOR GOODNESS' SAKE" "LOVE IS BLIND"  
"GREEN EYED MONSTER" "PLAY / PLAY" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"  
"THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER" "BRAVE NEW WORLD" "A SORRY SIGHT"  
"BE ALL / END ALL"

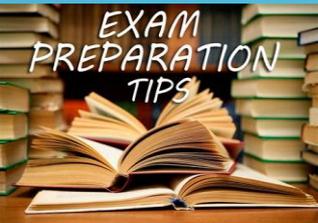


## TrashLANDS



## SPAG – EH?

- ▶ Remember, there are an additional 4 marks on Paper 2 now allocated to spelling, punctuation and grammar. Students should ensure they always proofread their essay responses to earn those marks!



CONTEXT

MATTERS



## CONTEXT

- ▶ Every student at the Cottesloe School will learn about the contextual factors *surrounding the texts they are studying*.
- ▶ *These texts are integral to British heritage and there are plenty of ways to brush up on your contextual knowledge!*
- ▶ *One way students can do this is by listening to podcasts, for example the 'GCSE English Revision Pod' on Spotify.*

•  
**March W/B: 1<sup>st</sup> March**  
English Literature Paper 2

**MOCK EXAMINATIONS**

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- ▶ **Understand what is expected** for both examination papers in terms of: Timings / Each Question / Assessment Objectives / Mark Schemes/Examiners' Reports
- ▶ **Practice Makes Perfect:** complete as many past papers as possible.
- ▶ **Resilience is key:** don't give up! Ensure you fix every response to the best of your ability!
- ▶ **Accept all Offers of Help:** come to revision sessions (some of which may be virtual this year) and join any Google Intervention classrooms to which you are invited.
- ▶ **Be Revision Smart:** use the revision websites the English department at the Cottesloe School have created! Each website – one for Literature and one Language – is packed with useful revision tasks, links to YouTube revision videos, practice papers and more!



# WHAT STUDENTS CAN DO TO SUCCEED THIS YEAR.



*Always aspire to improve yourself*



***PREPARE  
ASPIRE  
SUCCEED***

Thank you for listening and, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me:

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