

The English Department

Mrs. J. Webber | Head of English



Success!

How you can help your child to achieve their best?



Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

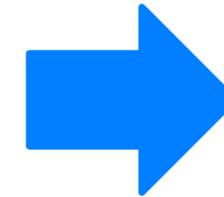
There are no current changes to the specification or the planned examinations as of this moment.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PREPARE



Paper 1:
Explorations
in Creative
Reading
and Writing



50% of
GCSE
English
Language.

PAPER 2

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. (**45** Minutes)

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed





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



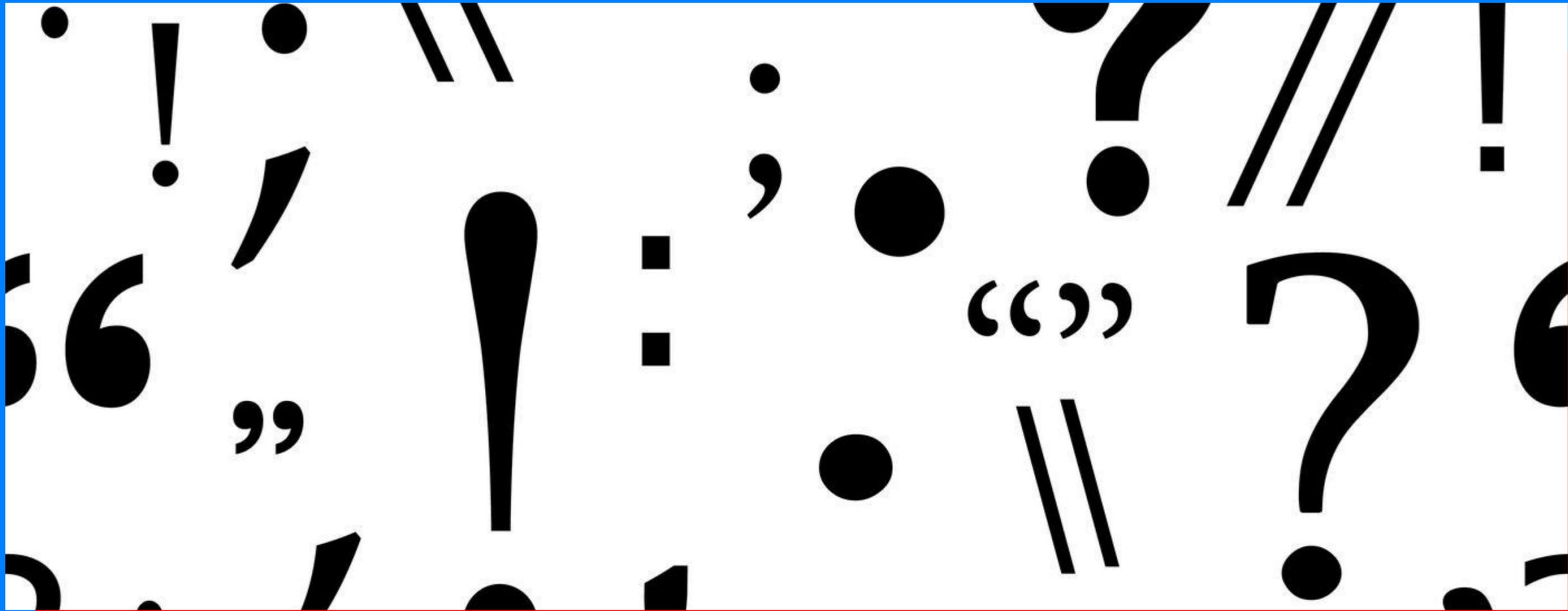
Prepare lots of descriptions of places and people.



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.



Think carefully about the punctuation you use. Try to vary it and create effects through it.

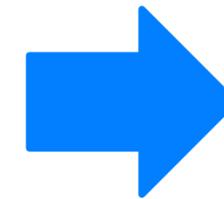
Remember 'SPaG' is worth 16 out of 40 Marks.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

PREPARE



Paper 2:
Writers'
Viewpoints
and
Perspectives



50% of
GCSE
English
Language

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)

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed





present
day

How To Prepare | Reading

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

Practise Reading Skills:

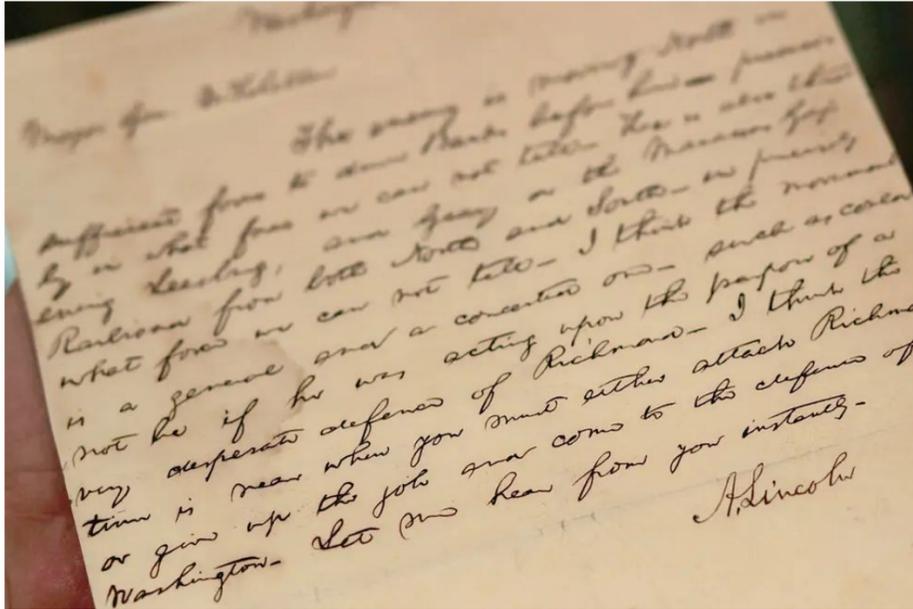
Q1: Comprehension

Q2: Inference

Q3: Analysis of language

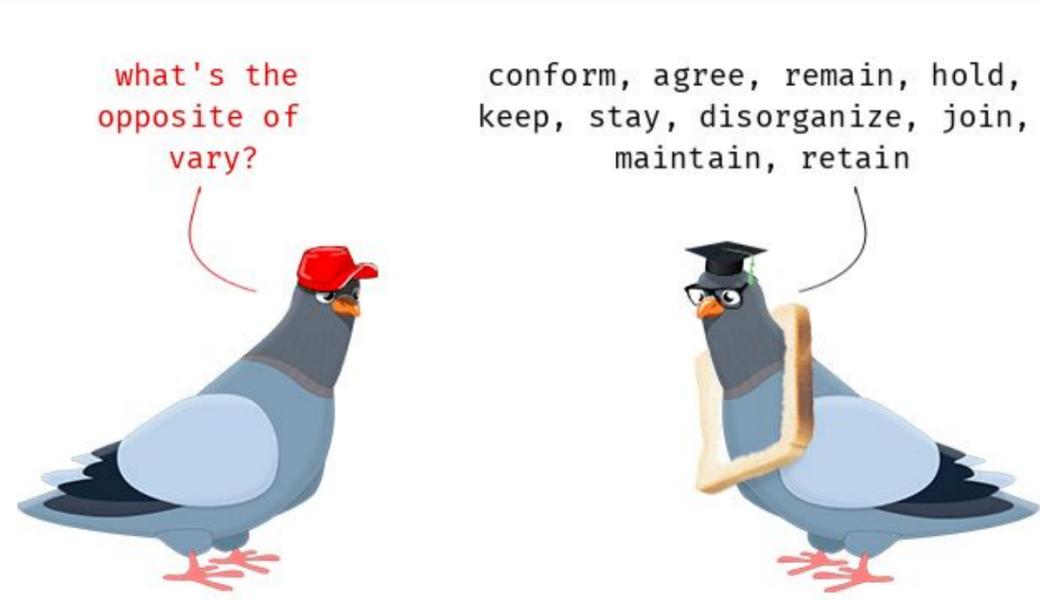
Q4: Comparing perspectives

How to Prepare | Reading



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 Mock Examinations

- In November, students will sit a Paper 1 and a Paper 2 Language Paper.
- We will mark these and fix them in class and then they will sit a different set of Paper 1 and Paper 2 Language papers in March.

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Applying your knowledge to exam questions

- The ultimate test of your knowledge is your ability to answer an exam-style question, under controlled conditions.
- You should ensure that you've accessed past papers and completed them under timed conditions. It makes sense to revisit questions until you feel that your response is secure.

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Applying your knowledge to exam questions

- Use different colours to show when you ran out of time. Hopefully, this will reduce over time as you become more skilled at writing under pressure.
- Ensure that you know how to access resources that the examination board provide:

[AQA Assessment Resources](#)

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



English Language Revision Websites*

The English department is happy to share these valuable resources with every student. On each website, students will have access to revision videos, guided support, practice questions and more. Please use these websites as part of your revision process:

Language Revision Websites

[Language Paper 1](#)

[Language Paper 2](#)

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



SPOKEN LANGUAGE



- Students will be awarded either a: Pass, Merit or Distinction.
- This award is a stand-alone qualification.
- Students write, and then deliver, a persuasive or informative 2 minute speech and then respond to questions.

MOST STUDENTS HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THIS ASSESSMENT IN YEAR 10.

(For any students yet to be assessed, we are planning to carry out the Spoken Language assessments just after the November Mock examinations.)

AQA GCSE ENGLISH

OfQUAL has just announced that there will be changes to this qualification for the 2022 examinations and AQA has provided the following guidance:

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Changes to exam structure

Because of the new options, we've updated how the two exam papers will be structured.

Paper 1 (choose any two)	Paper 2 (compulsory)
Paper 1P Anthology of poetry – 1 item 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)	Section A Shakespeare – 1 item 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3) + 4 marks (AO4)
Paper 1N 19th-century novel – 1 item 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)	Section B Part 1: unseen poem essay 24 marks (AO1, AO2) + 4 marks (AO4) Part 2: unseen poetry comparison 8 marks (AO2)
Paper 1M Modern prose/drama – 1 item 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3)	

Total mark allocation reduced

We're reducing the total exam marks available from 160 to 130.

Total exam time reduced

We're reducing the total exam time for GCSE English Literature from 4 hours to 3 hours and 25 minutes.

This is because students will only answer two of the three areas explained above.

Paper 1 |

Choose **TWO** of:
Poetry Anthology
Modern Prose or Drama
19th Century Novel



Paper 2

Section A
Shakespeare
Section B
Unseen Poetry

Section C
Unseen poetry
Comparison

How to Prepare | Literature



Use the Cottesloe School Literature revision websites and complete key tasks.

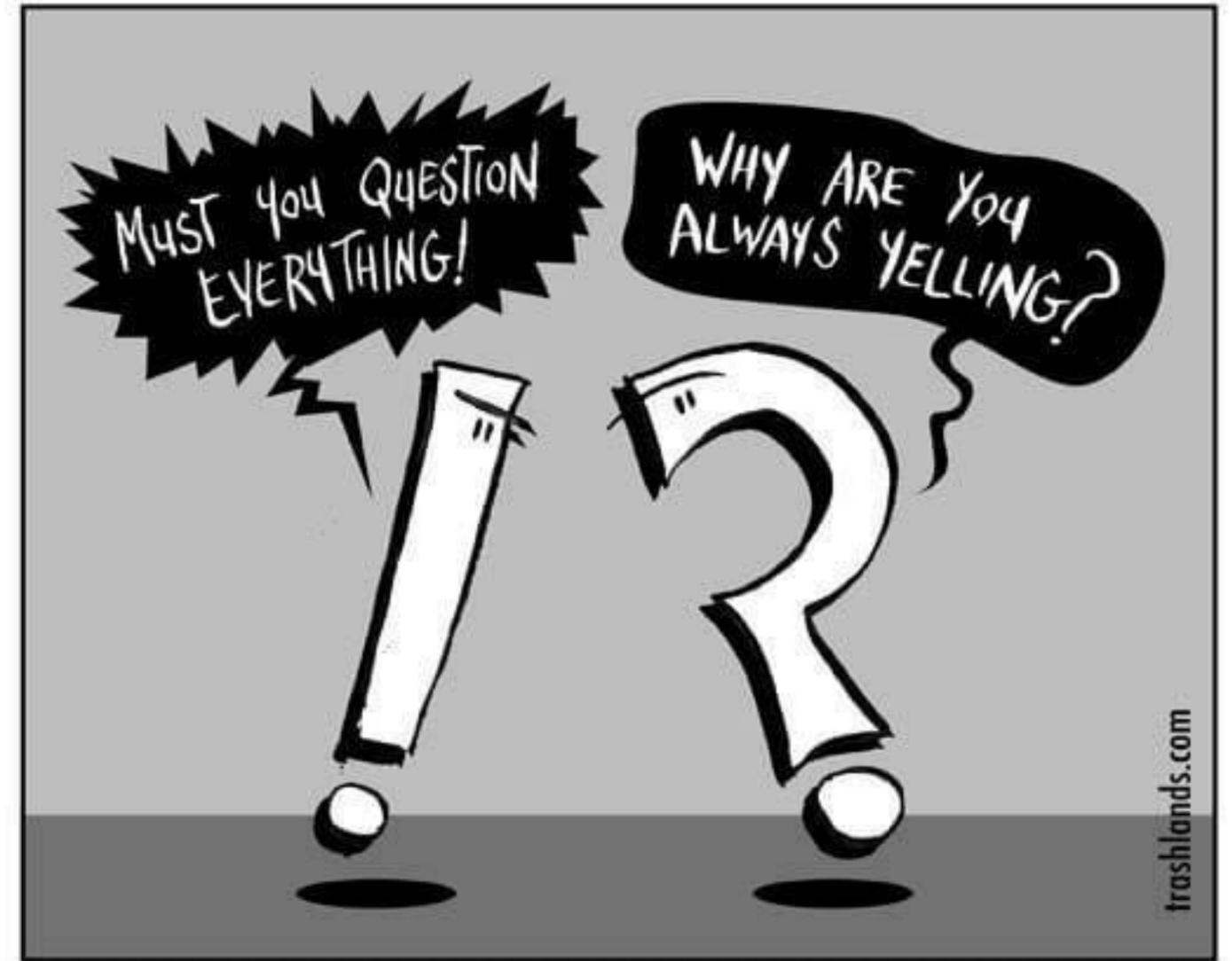
- Re-read the text and make additional annotations. Students should always be actively reading.
- This means they should be annotating for key plot developments, highlighting key quotations, exploring the effect of language and structure and making connections across the whole text.

**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" "FAIR / FOUL PLAY / PLAY" "OFF WITH HIS HEAD"
"THE WORLD IS MY OYSTER" "BRAVE NEW WORLD" "A SORRY SIGHT"
"BE ALL / END ALL"

SPAG-EH?

Remember, there are an additional 4 marks allocated to **spelling, punctuation and grammar**. Students should ensure they always proofread their essay responses to earn those marks!



Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Context Matters



Every student at the Cottesloe School will learn about the contextual factors surrounding the texts they are studying.



One way students can do this is by listening to podcasts, for example the **'GCSE English Revision Pod'**.

Applying your knowledge to exam questions

- The ultimate test of your knowledge is your ability to answer an exam-style question, under controlled conditions.
- You should ensure that you've accessed past papers and completed them under timed conditions. It makes sense to revisit questions until you feel that your response is secure. Use different colours to show when you ran out of time. Hopefully, this will reduce over time as you become more confident..

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Applying your knowledge to exam questions

As you know, at The Cottesloe School, the exam board for English Language and Literature is AQA

How can you access past papers?

AQA [Literature](#) Papers

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Literature Revision Websites

[Poetry](#) (to practise the unseen)

[The Sign of the Four](#)

[An Inspector Calls](#)

[Macbeth](#)

*Please note: You will need to be logged into your Cottesloe school email account before you click on the link. Please speak to your class teacher if you are experiencing any issues accessing the websites.

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



Other Useful Revision Websites

[AQA](#)

[Sparknotes](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#)

[Royal Shakespeare Company](#)

[Mr Bruff](#)

[Study Wise](#)

[BBC Teach](#)

[No Fear Shakespeare](#)

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



The Mock Examinations

- In November, students will NOT sit a Literature paper, as the first term is mainly language-focused.
- After November, the focus will mainly switch to Literature and students will be assessed in class and on a Literature paper in the March Mocks.

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



A Summary Of What Students Can Do To Succeed This Year

- 1. Understand what is expected** for all examination papers in terms of: Timings / Each Question / Assessment Objectives / Mark Schemes/Examiners' Reports
- 2. Practice Makes Perfect** complete as many past papers as possible.
- 3. Resilience is key** don't give up!
- 4. Accept all Offers of Help** come to revision sessions; accept invitations to Intervention Google Classrooms; make use of the English Department Revision Website.
- 5. Be Revision Smart** the best revision for English Language and English Literature is practising questions under timed conditions.

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed



You aspire to great things?
Begin with the little ones.

Saint Augustine

Prepare | Aspire | Succeed

