

# HOW TO REVISE FOR YOUR GCSE ENGLISH EXAMS

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# GCSE Overview

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Your English GCSE exams will be testing the **skills and knowledge** you have learnt **across KS3 and KS4**.

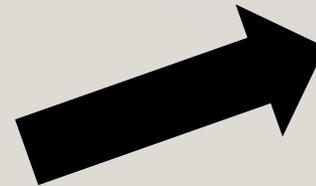
You will **sit four separate exams: two for Language and two for Literature**.

You **cannot take any texts** you have been studying into your exams.

The examiner will be **assessing your ability** to **show your understanding** of the plays, poems and novel you have studied at KS4. As a result, you will need to:

- learn key quotations from each text
- have an understanding of contextual ideas which may have influenced each writer
- understand key themes and concepts
- understand how to analyse language

**DO NOT**  
waste valuable  
lesson time by  
not revising at  
home



**DID YOU KNOW**  
By the end of Year  
11, you will have  
approximately spent  
566 hours of lesson  
time in English?

# Common Beliefs about Revising for English

***“You don’t need to read the book. Just watch the film because it will be exactly like it.”***

***“You can’t revise for English.”***

***“Just focus on one of your English exams so it is less information to remember. I don’t need two English GCSE’s.”***

***“Leave your revision to the day before and then stay up all night so it is all fresh in your mind.”***

***“Learn one poem and just write about it.”***

***“I won’t need English when I leave school so what’s the point in passing it? I hate reading and writing.”***

**Do you think people who have these beliefs are likely to pass their English GCSE exams?**

# Why does Passing my English GCSEs matter?

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## **FACT**

Colleges will look at your English grades. If you do not pass, you will have to resit in college.

## **FACT**

Reading and writing are skills for life. You need them to function socially and professionally.

## **FACT**

Passing English makes you more employable.

## **FACT**

To join the Armed Forces, you need to pass English.

## **FACT**

When applying for a job, employers look at GCSE grades. They will expect to see this on your CV.

## **FACT**

If you apply for university in the future, you must pass English.

## **FACT**

Reading and writing is required in every job.

## **FACT**

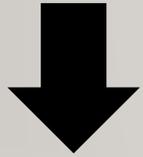
The better you do in your GCSEs, you likelier you are to have a job in the future you enjoy.



# The Science of Revision:

## FACT:

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. However, 27% of boys and 39% of girls skip it.



*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that skipping this meal significantly reduces students' attention.

How many hours have you wasted being distracted?

## FACT:

If you keep your phone on you whilst revising, you will become distracted.



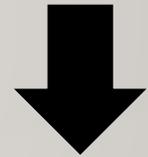
*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that the mere sight of a phone was enough to reduce a person's ability to focus.

Could you make small changes to your daily life to help improve your grades?

## FACT:

Having enough sleep is vitally important in order to improve students' attention.



*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that the less you sleep, the more likely you are to become distracted and lose focus.

Could you go to bed earlier to make sure you are sleeping enough?

# How to Revise English Language

**Flash cards: learn how to spell key terms and the definitions of them.**

**Answer each question in exam conditions. The more you practise, the easier you will find this.**

**Complete grammar activities to improve your SPaG and technical accuracy.**

**Learn evaluative adverbs.**

**Practise selecting judicious quotations and writing analytically about them.**

**Practise your writing skills by completing 200 word challenges.**

**Understand the differences between language and structural features. Test yourself with your family or friends.**

**Complete 5 a Day starter.**

**Create a list of impressive vocabulary you would like to learn. Ask family or friends to test you.**

**Practise using more sophisticated punctuation. Ask your teacher to check if it is used correctly.**

**Read more frequently so you can improve your reading age. This will help you in your exam.**

**Understand the different formats when writing for a purpose.**

# How to Revise English Literature

**Re-read the set texts you are studying.**

**Go on revision websites and search for the texts you are studying. Familiarise yourself with anything you are unsure of.**

**Complete 5 a Day starter.**

**Learn key quotations for each text you are studying.**

**Understand key contextual ideas which may have influenced the writers you are studying.**

**Flash cards: learn how to spell key terms and the definitions of them.**

**Practise completing exam style questions.**

**Watch Mr Bruff videos on YouTube.**

**Complete Venn diagrams on poems you would compare.**

**Practise analysing unseen poems.**

**Revise key themes and characters in each set text.**

**Learn poetry terms.**