

Achieving Success – Subject Specific Tips

Subject	GCSE English Language GCSE English Literature	Exam Board	AQA 8700 Language AQA 8702 Literature
Class and Homework Expectations			
Students should bring the following items each lesson: English exercise book, the set text being studied for GCSE English Literature, blue or black handwriting pens, pencil, eraser, ruler, and coloured highlighters.			
Assessment			
English Language Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (FICTION) : 50% - 1hr 45minutes Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (NON-FICTION): 50% - 1hr 45minutes Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language presentation		English Literature Paper 1 - Shakespeare plus 19 th Century Novel 40% - 1hr Paper 2 – Modern Texts (published post-1914) plus Poetry Past and Present plus Unseen Poetry: 60% - 2hrs 15minutes	
The skills required for success in English Language and Literature			
Reading - To identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas - Select and synthesise evidence from different texts - Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects, using relevant subject terminology to support their views - Compare writers’ ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts - Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references		Writing - Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences - Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts - Write clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using and adapting forms and selecting vocabulary appropriate to task and purpose in ways that engage the reader - Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation	
How to do well in the subject at GCSE			
✓ Attend all lessons and catch up with any work missed by seeing your teacher and referring to Teams to ensure all tasks are completed and submitted by the deadline ✓ Keep your assessment record up to date and work on the feedback provided by your teacher ✓ Make sure you know your set texts for English Literature really well by repeatedly reading them in your own time and learning key quotations by heart ✓ Quiz yourself regularly on the set texts for English Literature using class room resources and online materials. Create your own quizzes, with answers, and share these among your classmates ✓ Practise past paper questions in timed conditions ✓ Know your subject terminology and use it accurately ✓ Revise how to use punctuation correctly. Proof-read everything you write by checking and correcting to improve your technical accuracy.			
Support Available			
Revision classes			

- Revision guides available to students
- Interventions as and when necessary throughout the two year course
- Use of Teams and school website for access to study materials

How parents could help support

- Check that homework is being completed to a high standard according to the teacher's instructions. Provide a comfortable place for them to work at home without distractions from family members, friends and devices that can access social media
- Test them on their knowledge and understanding of the set texts for English Literature
- Encourage them to share their opinions with you and debate topical issues together
- Encourage them to keep a journal of their thoughts and feelings and describe key moments in their life
- Watch a film/TV dramatization of the set texts for English Literature with them and evaluate the performance together
- Listen to them read aloud and question them on what they've read to test their comprehension and response to the text. Reading newspaper, magazines and online articles is just as valid as novels and short stories, especially if the topic is of interest to both of you.

Helpful websites or resources

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4> GCSE English Language

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx> GCSE English Literature

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/skillswise> Develop skills in reading, writing, spelling and grammar