



Reaching For The Top

English Language and Literature
How to Revise for Success

HOW TO REVISE FOR ENGLISH

Remember, English is just like any other subject. You need to learn, rehearse and remember the strategies and knowledge for success.

English Literature

- Re-read and annotate texts
- Wider reading
- Character trackers
- Theme trackers
- Revision of context
- Understanding the writers' intentions

English Language

- Read, read, read
- Plan written tasks
- Practice papers
- Learn and remember strategies for each question type
- Develop a voice in your writing



Character	Impression	Why have they been constructed?
Mr Birling	Unlikeable, arrogant, self-centred	Priestley's criticism of capitalist mindset
Sheila	Perceptive, intelligent, quick to change	Symbol of hope for the younger generations
Inspector Goole	Purposeful, intrusive, authoritative	Priestley's mouthpiece within the text

ENGLISH LITERATURE

For a top grade, you need to see characters as **constructs** and **concepts...**



**AMBITION**

Macbeth is a play about ambition run amok. The weird sisters' prophecies spur both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth to try to fulfill their ambitions, but the witches never *make* Macbeth or his wife do anything. Macbeth and his wife act on their own to fulfill their deepest desires. Macbeth, a good general and, by all accounts before the action of the play, a good man, allows his ambition to overwhelm him and becomes a murdering, paranoid maniac. Lady Macbeth, once she begins to put into actions the once-hidden thoughts of her mind, is crushed by guilt.

Both Macbeth and Lady Macbeth want to be great and powerful, and sacrifice their morals to achieve that goal. By contrasting these two characters with others in the play, such as Banquo, Duncan, and Macduff, who also want to be great leaders but refuse to allow ambition to come before honor, Macbeth shows how naked ambition, freed from any sort of moral or social conscience, ultimately takes over every other characteristic of a person. Unchecked ambition, *Macbeth* suggests, can never be fulfilled, and therefore quickly grows into a monster that will destroy anyone who gives into it.

Act 4, scene 1 Quotes

☞☞ By the pricking of my thumbs,
Something wicked this way comes.

Related Characters: Weird Sisters (speaker), Macbeth

Related Themes:   

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Explanation and Analysis

The witches prepare for Macbeth's arrival by mixing an unnatural brew in the cauldron. During their incantation, one makes this pronouncement on impending evil.

Tracking themes and
character development
across texts...



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

“BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY REVISE FOR ENGLISH, CAN YOU?”

- Everything you read will prepare you for your English language exam
- You should read fiction and non-fiction in a critical way, considering ideas about perspective, audience, purpose and text type
- You should approach the exam strategies in a scientific way. There is a formula to follow to provide a successful response.



SEEING THE BIGGER PICTURE

For English Language, you need to look at the overall impression of characters or ideas within the text.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



- For a top grade, you must establish an interesting voice in your narrative
- How can you show the personality of your narrator through the voice of your story?

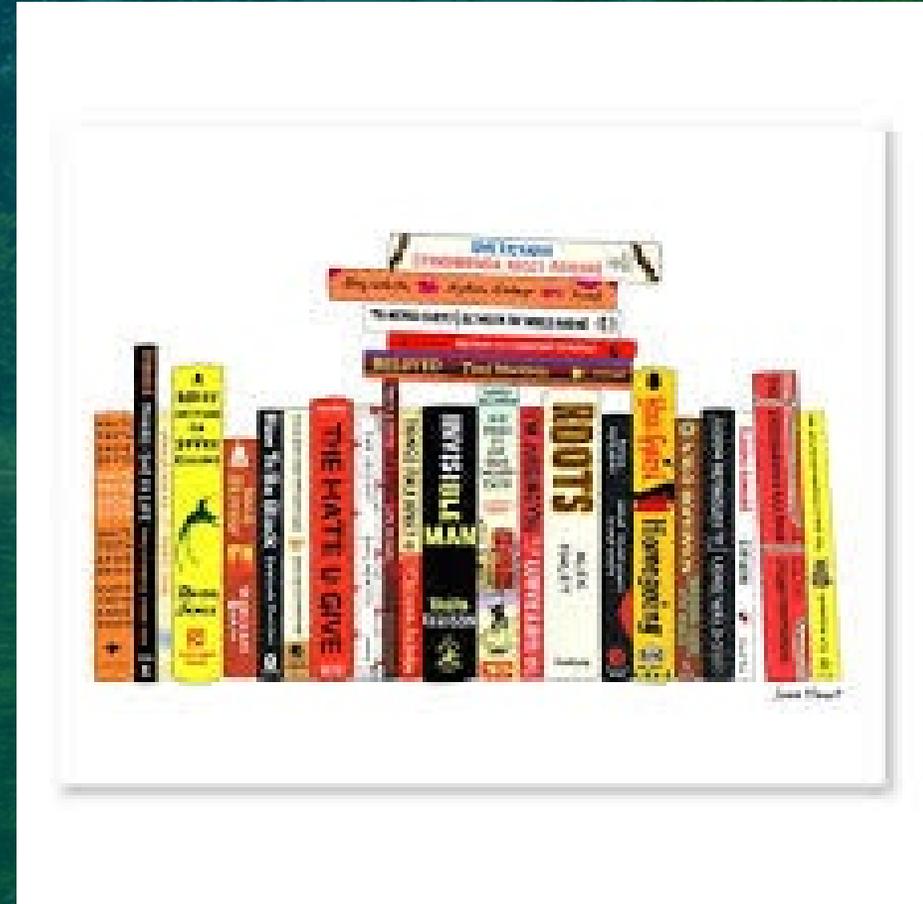
a) It really wasn't the result I was looking for. "That's it! ~~go~~ Get out all of you!" Her shrill, American twang cut through the thick midnight air and spelled trouble for all of us upstairs, myself included.

Mrs Phillips was a new transfer teacher from ~~AMERICA~~ New Jersey and like all new teachers, she had decided to rule with an iron fist. ~~My~~ ~~My~~ constant "yabberings" as she put it with Amber, past 12 o'clock at night had served as an ~~excuse~~ ^{excuse} to make an example of us. ✓ accomplished

ENGLISH LANGUAGE



- For top grade transactional writing, you must use real life examples.
- It should feel like you are writing for a real audience.
- Reading a wide range of non-fiction will help.
- Students need a broad knowledge of current affairs and issues



Revision tips from successful students

- Big paper and Post-Its
- Stick things up where you will see them
- Flashcards and test each other
- Revise in a small group
- Know your characters
- Do lots of practice questions
- CGP revision guides
- Reading
- Timed writing



NEXT STEPS....

- Re-read and annotate
 - Trackers
 - Flashcards
 - Wider reading
- Know your questions
 - Plan and write
 - Timed responses



Recommended Revision Texts

We study Eduqas, rather than AQA or Edexcel

Eduqas English Literature

- CGP revision guides or revision cards for:
- Unseen poetry
- An Inspector Calls
- A Christmas Carol
- Poetry Anthology
- Macbeth



Eduqas English Language

- CGP workbooks for Eduqas
- Past papers
- Exercise books and feedback from mocks
- Reading books
- Real non-fiction texts

There are some in school for students to borrow as a short term loan only.

