

English language and English literature GCSEs - Our recommendations for home study

Spring half-term, 12th-16th February

Re-read key chapters from Volume I of 'Great Expectations' (each student has his own).

Make a plot pathway of 'An Inspector Calls' using either an internet PDF as a plot reminder or own copy (we recommend purchasing a second-hand copy of this text for home use). Students can also use the Yr 11 guide on the school website.

Watch the BBC version of 'An Inspector Calls' (paying attention to differences from the text):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz1GS5fufg4>

Writing task to be done mid-week: write an autobiographical piece (or semi- or pretend autobiographical) centred around this idea – The Mistake I Made.

Spring half-term 2:

A weekly homework will be completing in full the 'Q4 Tuesday' tasks begun in class. This is an English language task. Below are additional necessary tasks or studies to be undertaken.

Week 1 (Monday February 19th): Literature revision on 'An Inspector Calls'. The department will offer an 'An Inspector Calls' hwk session for four weeks only on Wednesdays in room 26 for 1 hour from 3.20.

Week 2 (Monday 26th): Rereading four of the set poems from the OCR Anthology (Love & Relationships) and completing four of the linked exercises on the Digital Poetry site (students have their own log-ins).

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/gcse-related/gcse-english-literature-j352-from-2015-related/digital-poetry-anthology/>

Week 3 (Monday March 5th): Re-read key chapters from Volume II of 'Great Expectations' (each student has his own). Complete the key quotations (basic start) page in the revision guide given to each student and available on the website.

Week 4 (Monday March 12th): Complete a character chart of one of the main but not lead characters in the relevant Shakespeare play, **e.g.** Lord Capulet or the Friar in 'Romeo and Juliet'; Banquo or the witches collectively in 'Macbeth'.

Write a blog entry (it does not have to be live) aimed at a peer group audience about how to deal with stressed parents.

Week 5 (Monday March 19th): Non-fiction reading on the subject of automation (one piece by E.H. Gombrich, one by Chuka Umunna) to be found in the Year 11 area of the website or

from English teachers, and then research Thomas Carlyle, a 19th century essayist, on the same topic.

Week 6 (Monday March 26th): Narrative or personal writing using this stimulus title: Watching the Clock. To be read by or shared with an interested adult.

EASTER HOLIDAYS

Sign up for and attend Easter revision sessions. Be realistic about what would be useful or fruitful. Do not promise attendance and then not come.

Read key chapters from Volume III of 'Great Expectations'.

Choose three poems from the Love & Relationships poetry cluster to learn 'off by heart' or nearly so.

Watch the BBC version of 'An Inspector Calls' (paying attention to differences from the text). This is available here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zz1GS5fufg4>

Listen to the RSC audio version of 'Romeo and Juliet' available on Youtube (it is very good, unabridged and all five acts are here):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4kt8EzPxNeA>

OR

Listen to 'Macbeth' at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGBQsQoWvA0>

Summer half-term 1 (the two literature exams are on 22nd and 25th May, mornings):

A weekly homework will be learning 5 new literature quotations a week.

Week 1 (Monday April 16th): Annotate five key extracts of your own choice from 'Macbeth' or 'Romeo and Juliet'. Look for at least one that has a blank verse/prose mixture. Focus on the dramatic impact and ideas being communicated to the audience.

Week 2 (Monday April 23rd): Shakespeare and J.B. Priestley 'Penpals Across the Centuries': Priestley should write to Shakespeare explaining the context of his play, the issues he is raising and discussing what they both have in common (refer to 'R&J' or 'Macbeth').

Week 3 (Monday April 30th): Find a modern poem that could be linked to one of the older OCR Anthology poems of your choice. Create an exam-style question. Try www.poemhunter.com or the Poetry Archive, amongst other resources. Write a practice essay based on the theme of love and loss based on 'An Arundel Tomb' by Philip Larkin.

Week 4 (Monday May 7th): Write a practice essay on Act 3, scene 5 of ‘Romeo and Juliet’ or ‘Macbeth’ focusing on the idea of change and turning-points. Ensure you have something to say and say it well!

Week 5 (Monday May 15th): Sit back, think about everything you know and have thought about or learnt. Record yourself (on your phone is fine) speaking aloud to yourself or with an interested adult, talking about what you think is each of the set text’s core or important messages. When it comes to the poetry, choose two poems to talk about – two that you have found most moving or entertaining or thought-provoking.

Take home purple books and review all targets from mocks, homework, classwork; review exam techniques and guidance.

Week 6 (Monday May 22nd): Exam week for English literature.

Week starting Monday 28th May: Review all targets from mocks, homework, classwork; review exam techniques and guidance with the help of the WES OCR English language guidance booklet provided (also available on the website). This should include going over key terminology. Take purple exam book home if you haven’t already!

Ensure you are not a comma-splicer and prove it, at least in theory, by completing the exercises here: http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/page_47.htm

We also advise timed rewriting of a minimum of two previous responses on each of the papers. Keep reading non-fiction and doing small pieces of practice writing with accuracy and styling choices to the fore, ready for the English language exams on June 5th and June 8th.

William Ellis School
English department

Further information

You all have guides to the OCR exams on the English language GCSE and on ‘Great Expectations’. A link to PDF versions of these is also on the school website, under Year 11. There are other resources here, too, including an ‘An Inspector Calls’ guide and summary sheets from OCR.

You all have online access to OCR’s Digital Poetry site. Write your details here:

Username:

Password:

You can also use this link to access OCR’s very useful ‘Little Book of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar’, with online exercises. This guide is actually better read online (because of the colours used) but we will provide a paper version for any student or parent/carer who asks for one.