



RWS/JWN
28th March 2019

Re: Trial Examination information - English

Your son is currently working towards two English GCSEs: English Literature and English Language. This academic year he has been working through both English Language Paper 2 and English Literature Paper 2. He will sit a complete English Language Paper 2 and Section B of English Literature Paper 2 as end-of-year examinations in May 2019.

The English Language examination will focus on reading and writing skills linked to two unseen non-fiction extracts. The English Literature examination will focus on the poems from the Power and Conflict cluster of the AQA Poetry Anthology.

We will revise the relevant skills for these papers in English lessons, but it is important that he also revises at home. The guidance offered below is intended to support him in revising and should be used in addition to any home learning or revision tasks set by his English teachers.

English Literature

Students need to spend time re-reading and revising the meaning, effects and contexts of the following poems from the AQA Power and Conflict Anthology:

1. London by William Blake
2. Remains by Simon Armitage
3. My Last Duchess by Robert Browning
4. Checking Out Me History by John Agard
5. The Charge of the Light Brigade by Alfred Lord Tennyson

He should be memorising key quotations linked to the themes of power and conflict. Learning a selection of quotations from each poem is important as all English Literature examinations are closed book, so he will not be able to take a copy of his annotated anthology into the examination.

In addition to re-reading the poems and his class notes, he may also find it beneficial to use revision materials and guides. CGP Books offer a guide and workbook for the AQA Power and Conflict Anthology; these can be ordered directly from their website or purchased local bookshops. Online revision materials are also available from websites such as BBC GCSE Bitesize.

Students might also find it useful to watch video tutorials on these poems, for example, the YouTube tutorials created by Mr Bruff or Mr Salles. There are also some helpful overviews and interviews with the poets available through BBC Teach.

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English Language

Many of the reading questions on this paper require students to use subject-specific terminology. Students should spend time revising this terminology; he will be able to use his exercise book to support him in this revision.

In addition to this, he may choose to complete a mock exam paper before the end of this term in order to practise key skills. Mock papers can be obtained from your son's English Language teacher or through the English pages on the VLE.

As with English Literature, there are also revision guides and workbooks available from CGP Books.

Throughout the remainder of the GCSE English courses, it is important that your son reads widely. Not only will this increase his ability to handle longer texts – the texts in the examinations will be between 500-700 words long – but it will allow him to learn new vocabulary. He would be best advised to read a mixture of fiction and non-fiction, including news articles from The Guardian or BBC News.

Use of the VLE

We strongly advise that students make full use of the school's VLE, as there are a wide range of revision materials and resources for both English Literature and English Language. This can all be accessed from home and will enable him to look at exam questions, as well as key quotations for the set texts and power points, which have been uploaded by teachers from across the department.

I hope that this information is of use to both you and your son. Should you have any queries regarding the trial examinations, please contact the school.

Miss R. Walters
Learning Leader, KS4 English