

Securing a grade 4/5/6 in
English Language and Literature

Language



- Attempt past papers – see Show My Homework, your class teacher, AQA website
- Attempt past questions under timed conditions. Don't try to do too much too soon – work on a question at a time but make sure you don't spend 30 mins tackling a question you would only have 10 mins to answer in the exam!
- Read, read, read! This will really help with your preparation for LP1. **Parents – could you read alongside your child and then discuss the text afterwards? Ask them about the language used, why characters behave in the way that they do and what your child's opinion is of the text – these questions link to what your child has to analyse in the exam.**
- Watch documentaries, especially to help your preparation with LP2. **Parents – could you watch the same documentaries and discuss them afterwards? Netflix and Youtube can be good places to start. Professor Green and Stacey Dooley have recently produced fairly engaging ones looking at modern day poverty in the UK**
- Make use of the resources on GCSE pod. You already have access to this
- Make use of Mr Bruff – a video for every question on both language papers, including exemplar material. **Parents – ask your child to talk you through what Mr Bruff is saying. Teaching material to somebody else is proven to be an effective way of embedding knowledge into the long term memory.**
- Pre-prepare for LP1 Q5 – a character you can 'drop' into an image or narrative, five wow words you can spell and use in context, varying your sentences making use of ISPACE
- Make use of exemplar material and the mark scheme. Plenty of this online, including on Mr Bruff's website and on the AQA website or ask your teacher for examples.

Literature



Know your set texts. Re-read them– free copies on Show My Homework/online or see your class teacher. Watch the DVD versions again – most are free online

Make use of revision guides – available via Parentmail

FlipCoCards or create your own

Make use of the resources on GCSE pod. You already have access to this

Four a day knowledge recap questions. Available on Show My Homework

Mr Bruff and Stacey Reay have free online videos to support every text you study for English Literature. Plenty of exemplar responses deconstructed too so make use of them!

Facebook – GCSE revision page.

DLS Instagram and Twitter

Look at the past questions and sample questions for your set texts. Attempt the worst case scenario questions and bring to Mrs Marks for feedback

Make sure you know which poems from the power and conflict cluster can be used for various questions

Parents – could you re-read the set texts alongside your child? Or cheat and familiarise yourself on characters and plot by making use of Wikipedia or Sparknotes?! Make time each day/week to discuss the plot/themes/characters/context. Ask your child to teach you difficult parts of the text to really ensure they have the knowledge of it.

How to revise

Knowledge

Four a day

Quizzes

Mind-maps

Questions

Revision guides

20 mins a day max

Identify weaknesses and work on these first

Date: Title:	
Four a day	
AIC	What are the family celebrating at the start of the play?
R&J	Who is fighting at the start of the play? Why does the fight begin?
Poetry	List 3 adjectives to describe Ozymandias and explain why you have chosen each one.
TSOF	What are the names of the homeless boys that help Sherlock?



Skills

Unpick Qs

Exemplar material

Revision guides

Mr Bruff's examples

Past papers

ISPACE

Act on feedback

Wow words

Techniques

How to revise

Identify your weakest areas and target these first

Work in short and meaningful blocks – your brain will switch off if you try to cram. 20-25 mins and then a break

Revision MUST be an active process. Find what works for you but don't passively read notes as the information will not stick.

Make:

- Mind-maps – then cover over and recreate from memory
- Flash cards – ones with key info on one side and key questions to check understanding on the other tend to work best
- Say it out loud – or sing it! Check out Mr Bruff's songs for the key texts. They work!
- Quote quizzes – who said this? Quotes with missing words you have to fill in
- Repeat material you have already revised – you have to make it stick. Come back to it later that week, the week later, later that month
- Teach it to someone else to the point that they could write a response. Proven to be more effective than any other technique.

Parents – can you become quizmasters for the next few months to assess your child's knowledge? 5 quick fire questions each day could really help to secure key information to the long term memory. You never know, it may even come up at a pub quiz for you in the future!

Support

- Every lunch time in G9. Individual questions/concerns. Small group tutorials. A place for quiet revision. Bring your past papers for feedback
- Targeted intervention on a Wednesday after school. Lists will go out to parents on the Monday of each week
- Every Monday and Thursday in the library you will have a member of the Year 11 team to support you as you need
- Direct questions via Twitter or Instagram or email marksc@delasalleschool.org.uk