

Summer Preparation for GCSE English – Suggested Activities

GCSE English Language

Frequently read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts: just 20 mins a day could make a real difference. Ideas for texts can be sourced through:

- The 'Summer Reading' list (as sent via Parentmail)
- Find books that may interest you by typing a book you like into Amazon and then scroll down to see other suggestions. Alternatively, try www.whatshouldireadnext.com or www.lovereadings.co.uk. Save your suggestions to a 'wish list' to revisit throughout the course.
- If you struggle to sit down and read a whole text, try an audiobook (try Audible, Amazon, itunes or www.openculture.com/freeaudiobooks). Podcasts can also be beneficial, if from a reputable source.

Read broadsheet articles (online or printed) on topics that you are interested in – sport, fashion, craft, travel, cookery etc. Cut out and keep any that you particularly enjoy, to use as a revision resource.

Buy a magazine that you have never read before.

Create handwritten letters and postcards to send to family and friends. Aim to make these as descriptive as possible, using adjectives and adverbs to create imagery for the recipient.

Keep an inspiration scrapbook of the summer: photographs, quotations, tickets, sketches and notes. This could provide inspiration for creative writing tasks and will help to keep the imagination ticking along.

Undertake a '30 day writing challenge'. Find examples of prompts for each day on Pinterest, Google or Instagram. At <http://bit.ly/1K3KYm7> there's a 365 day writing challenge with some amazing writing prompts. Pick a few and jot some ideas down.

Write a blog.

Make a short film of the summer. Storyboarding and editing can help you to focus on sequencing, ordering and structuring narrative texts. Host a movie night and create a short speech to introduce the movie. This will aid speaking & listening skills.

Create revision flashcards for punctuation marks and key linguistic terms. Make them as exciting and as memorable as possible. Use lines from movies or songs you love (correctly spelled & punctuated!) as examples of each skill.

You Tube can be a brilliant resource for learning about technical accuracy. Try searching for 'Schoolhouse Rock' for old-school cartoons that will improve your grammar or have a look through the many useful videos on Mr Bruff's channel:

www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff In general, search for any skill that you struggle with and you should find a whole host of resources. Don't forget to look for videos on your key texts, too!

Revision guides on key skills of reading & writing: borrow them or buy them and as you read them, attempt the activities that you'll find inside. Ensure that you are accessing the most current versions: AQA English GCSE, published in 2015, reflective of the new syllabus.

GCSE English Literature

Read the key texts: 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Macbeth'.

Watch film versions of the key texts (remembering that they may differ from the original text quite significantly!)

Search for any theatre productions that the family can visit (they don't have to be of the texts – any performance will enhance your understanding of dramatic techniques, devices and audience reaction).

Don't forget the cinema! The Vue cinema in Newcastle frequently shows live RSC productions: just use their 'Coming Soon' tab to search for upcoming dates. A new feature-film version of 'Macbeth' starring Michael Fassbender is due to be released on 02.10.15.

Use public libraries as a resource – join them for free and access a wealth of materials. Libraries also runs groups for those of all ages interested in things like creative writing, book clubs and family history, for example. Search through your local council website to find full details of facilities and events.

Use Pinterest (www.pinterest.com) as a means of finding resources and links to articles on 'A Christmas Carol' and 'Macbeth', creating a board for each text. This can also be a valuable resource for Language, with many pins on punctuation, spelling and grammar rules.

Social media sites often have pages or links devoted to texts, writers and reading materials.

Revision guides on the key texts: borrow them or buy them and once you've read them, attempt the activities that you'll find inside.