

Preparing for Year 11: Summer Holiday English Revision Tasks

The following tasks are optional and an extension of what you have done so far this year. If you are aiming for a higher grade then it's essential you keep your revision going and use the holiday to reflect on what you have learned. Reading a wide range of literature/non-fiction is always going to help your reading and writing skills for the exams.

19th century novel revision

- Re-read 19th century novel over the summer
- Write a reading journal for your set text (revision cards for each chapter e.g key events/writer's techniques)
- Make a glossary of words from your set text and research their meaning e.g 10 from each chapter
- Write quote lists under headings of characters and themes
- Choose an extract from the book and write your own exam question for it e.g How does Shelley/Stevenson present.....in this extract and the rest of the novel?
- Plan and write an answer
- Read literary criticism on your set text (essays written by academics on the novel) - ask Mrs Roth in the library or google. Make some notes on what you've learned.

Poetry revision

- Re-read all the poems you have studied in the anthology and your exercise book notes/annotations on the poems themselves
- Make quote lists
- Draw comparison charts/diagrams linking the poems through themes/feelings/attitudes towards love & relationships or power & conflict
- Choose two "unseen" poems on the same theme and make some comparisons by considering the poets' techniques and ideas.
- Read some literary criticism on the poets you have studied....there will be lots on the pre-20th century poets particularly.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 English Language: Reading

- **Paper 1:** Read a variety of 20/21st century fiction. See wider reading booklists given to you. They are also in the library and on the website in the English department area.
- Choose short extracts and make notes on how the writer uses language to set a scene/introduce or develop a character/create an atmosphere
- Talk through with a parent how the writer might structure the extract you've chosen. Openings of narratives are particularly good for this task.

- Devise a question 4 for your extract and answer it e.g A student said that this is a dramatic opening to a novel/short story. Do you agree with this view? Discuss this statement with a parent or friend to gather different interpretations
- **Paper 2:** read a variety of newspaper editorial articles from broadsheet papers like The Guardian/The Times etc. Establish the view of the writer and make notes on how language is used to convey his/her opinion.
- Summarise the viewpoint in 30 words. Watch out to see whether the view changes at all.
- Google some 19th century articles on various topics. Dickens is a good source for this. Select words you don't know and research their meanings. Establish the view of the writer and discuss it with a parent or friend.

Writing:

- Write a parody/mimic the style of the writer of your set 19th century text: change the narrative viewpoint to another character/minor character of the same events.
- Select a suitably atmospheric picture and use it to write a piece of descriptive/narrative writing within 15 minutes using as many different sentence structures as you can
- Write an editorial newspaper article disagreeing with the viewpoint in any of the articles you've read in the reading task above.
- Make a list of words from the dictionary that you've never heard of before. Discover their meanings. See if you can find any synonyms that have similar meanings. Create ambitious sentences by considering where you are placing words and varying sentence types. Have a read of "The Book of Exciting Sentences" by Alan Peat for examples.
- Set yourself spelling tests with challenging words or words you tend to get wrong. Look/Cover/Write/Check!