

How To Support Your Child To Revise For Their English GCSE

Mrs Hewlett: Curriculum Leader for English
jennifer.hewlett@cowleysthelens.org.uk

Aims of this session:

By the end of this session you will:

- Know which exam boards we use – it is **different** for Language and Literature
- Know the expectations of the exams
- Know the type of tasks they will be expected to complete
- Know the most useful websites/resources to access
- Know how to help them **use** those revision resources
- Be able to help them prioritise which content to revise

Exams Overview

November mocks

February mocks



LANGUAGE



- Exam Board – AQA
- 100% Examination
- 2 Papers
- Both 1hr 45minutes
- Paper 1 fiction
- Paper 2 non-fiction
- Reading
- Writing

LITERATURE

- Exam Board – Eduqas
- 100% Examination
- 2 Papers
- Paper 1 – 2 hours
 - Macbeth
 - Poetry (18 poems)
- Paper 2 – 2hr 30 mins
 - An Inspector Calls
 - A Christmas Carol
 - Unseen Poetry

Revising LANGUAGE

- Focus on two things:
 1. Reading
 2. Writing
 - **Writing takes two forms**
 - Non-fiction (aka 'transactional') = article, letter, speech
 - Fiction (aka 'creative') = description (of image) or narrative (opening of story)
- GCSE Pod
- Past paper websites *just ensure you select AQA*
RevisionWorld: [AQA GCSE English Language Past Papers - Revision World](#)
PMT: [GCSE / IGCSE English Language Past Papers - PMT](#)
- **Revise and learn structures for questions taught in class** – these can be put on flashcards and tested at home

- **Question 5**
 - *Paper 1 – fiction: description or narrative*
 - *Paper 2 – nonfiction: letter, article or speech*
- **READING IS ESSENTIAL** – how can students write successful articles if they've never read one?
- **Fortnightly Writing Task in class**
- **Access any image to practise description at home**
- Use the structures taught in class – They may differ depending on target grade. Does your child know which structure to use?
- When completing a question, use a timer
 - Plan for 10 minutes
 - Write for 45
 - Check/Proofread for 1 minute

Paragraph 1 overview of entire atmosphere, mood, weather/conditions, time of day, season, temperature etc 1. Begin with an adverb (-ly word) 2. Include the words who, which or that. 3. Start with an -ing verb. 4. Contain a simile, metaphor or personification. 5. End with exactly 3 words.	Paragraph 2 overview of location/setting	Paragraph 3 Zoom into one aspect of the setting
Paragraph 4 move from setting to people: briefly describe the people in the image (make them up if there aren't any!)	Paragraph 5 on one person & describe in detail. Include description of their eyes.	Paragraph 6 give the whole picture again. Revisit the weather established at the beginning (cyclical) - something must have changed

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section. Write in full sentences. You are reminded of the need to plan your answer. You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

OR:

Write a description suggested by this picture.

OR:

Write the beginning of a story that begins with the sentence: 'It was a disaster. I don't know what to do.'

(24 marks for content and organisation, 16 marks for technical accuracy) (40 marks)

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Revising LITERATURE

- Focus on three things:
 1. Plot
 2. Characters
 3. Themes
- **Rewatch films** – on their MS Teams area
- **Reread texts** (free audiobooks on Youtube & PDFs on MSTEams)
- **GCSEPod**: Watch short clips & complete quizzes [GCSEPod](#)
- **BBCBitesize**: videos, podcasts, notes, quizzes, past exam questions
[GCSE - England - BBC Bitesize](#)
- **PMT website**: revision guides – *Just ensure you select Eduqas*
[Physics & Maths Tutor](#)

BBC Bitesize has *loads* of resources:

Video playlists



Shakespeare

► 9 Videos



Modern drama

► 7 Videos



Modern prose

► 5 Videos



19th century prose: Charles Dickens

► 3 Videos



19th century prose

► 6 Videos



Eduqas poetry anthology

► 2 Videos

A Christmas Carol



Plot summary - Eduqas

A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, an old man who transforms his miserly ways after four ghostly visits one Christmas Eve.



Plot summary quiz

Revise and learn about the plot of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens with this activity.



Characters - Eduqas

Three ghosts take Scrooge through Christmases past, present and future. Characters Bob Cratchit, his son Tiny Tim, and Scrooge's nephew Fred, all influence Scrooge in his journey of transformation.



Characters activity

Revise and learn about the characters of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens with this activity.



Themes - Eduqas

The main ideas in a text are called themes. In A Christmas Carol these include Christmas, redemption and social injustice. Dickens also deals with the themes of family and forgiveness.



Themes quiz

Revise and learn about the themes of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens with this activity.



Form, structure and language - Eduqas

Dickens uses vivid language, elements of classic ghost stories and a clear five-part structure to present this Christmas story.



Form, structure and language quiz

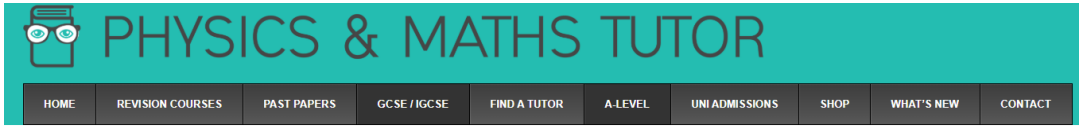
Revise and learn about the form, structure and language of A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens with this activity.



Sample exam question - Eduqas

The following question will help you prepare essays and practice for exams. Try re-writing each example in your own words, making improvements as you go.

PMT has *tonnes* of free revision guides



Home > English Revision

English Revision



Ruth D. ★ 5.0 (22)
Queens University Belfast - BA English
Experienced English teacher

✓ Qualified Teacher
✓ SEND
✓ Graduate

£40 / hour

Book Tutor



You can find Summary notes, past papers, character profiles, themes, glossary, flashcards, and exam and essay writing guides for each of the exam boards and their modules below.

GCSE

AQA

Edexcel

OCR

Eduqas

Edexcel (IGCSE)

Connect with PMT Education!



Home > English Revision > Eduqas GCSE > A Christmas Carol

A Christmas Carol



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Queens University Belfast - BA English
Experienced English teacher

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£40 / hour

Book Tutor

This topic is included in [Component 2](#). You can find notes and guides for it below.

Notes

- Overview
- Context
- Glossary of Key Terms
- Key Terms Flashcards

Additional Reading & Videos

- [Dickens as a social commentator](#)
- [The Appeal of A Christmas Carol](#) by Michel Faber

Character Profiles

- Bob Cratchit
- Ebenezer Scrooge
- Fezziwig
- Marley's Ghost
- Minor Characters
- The Ghosts
- Tiny Tim

Themes

- Family
- Isolation
- Materialism and Wealth
- Morality
- Poverty and Social Injustice
- Redemption and Change
- Regret
- Religion and Christmas
- The Supernatural



Eduqas English Literature GCSE

A Christmas Carol: Themes

Family

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Family

The exploration of 'family' as a theme within the novella closely ties in with Dickens' greater agenda to popularise an [emotional element](#) to Christmas. Hence, he emphasises the importance of family during the festive time.



This is contextually significant as Queen Victoria and Prince Albert had nine children together and their family was idealised and perceived to be model. Ideas about family were changing during the Victorian era so readers were more likely to be [receptive](#) to Dickens' presentation of the theme.

He emphasises ideas surrounding family by exploring them in detail, highlighting the positive effects that family can have while also explaining the negative consequences which could arise due to the absence of family. He builds on this by presenting the theme of family as one which [embodies joy, strength and affection](#). This is an interesting presentation as it could be argued that Scrooge begins the novella as the complete [antithesis](#) (direct opposite) to these ideas. This introduces the idea that the absence of family may be one of the key factors which contributed to Scrooge's initially abhorrent characterisation.

The Positive Effects of Family.

Fred
From his introduction to the novella, Fred generates a positive atmosphere which affects both Scrooge and the tone of narration. This is first highlighted when he enters Scrooge's counting-house in Stave One. Prior to his arrival Dickens focuses on cold, gloomy imagery. When Fred appears at the door, however, he ["heated himself"](#) and looked to be in ["a glow"](#), introducing warmth to the slave. This is significant as Dickens previously asserted that even ["external heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge"](#) which suggests that Fred's virtue is stronger than the forces of nature. This may perhaps spotlight the [power and value](#) of family.

It is also interesting to note that Dickens emphasises that it is Scrooge who [isolates himself](#) from his family. This is seen when he refuses Fred's invitation to ["dine"](#) with him on Christmas. It could be argued that this directly links to his downfall, as highlighted by the Ghost of Christmas Present who takes him to Fred's party. There, he acknowledges that if he had experienced a loving family ["years ago"](#) then he might have ["cultivated the kindness of life"](#). This presents the idea that a supportive family is [instrumental in the development of a person](#) and so the concept of family should be seen as paramount in society.



[www.pmt.education](#) [PMT Education](#)



My top 3 revision strategies:

1. READ – a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction: articles, letters, speeches, stories, biographies
2. WRITE – practice exam style questions (for Lit and Lang) under timed conditions. Students can ask their teachers for past questions, use the revision guides in the library or access PMT website from home
3. Brain Dump*

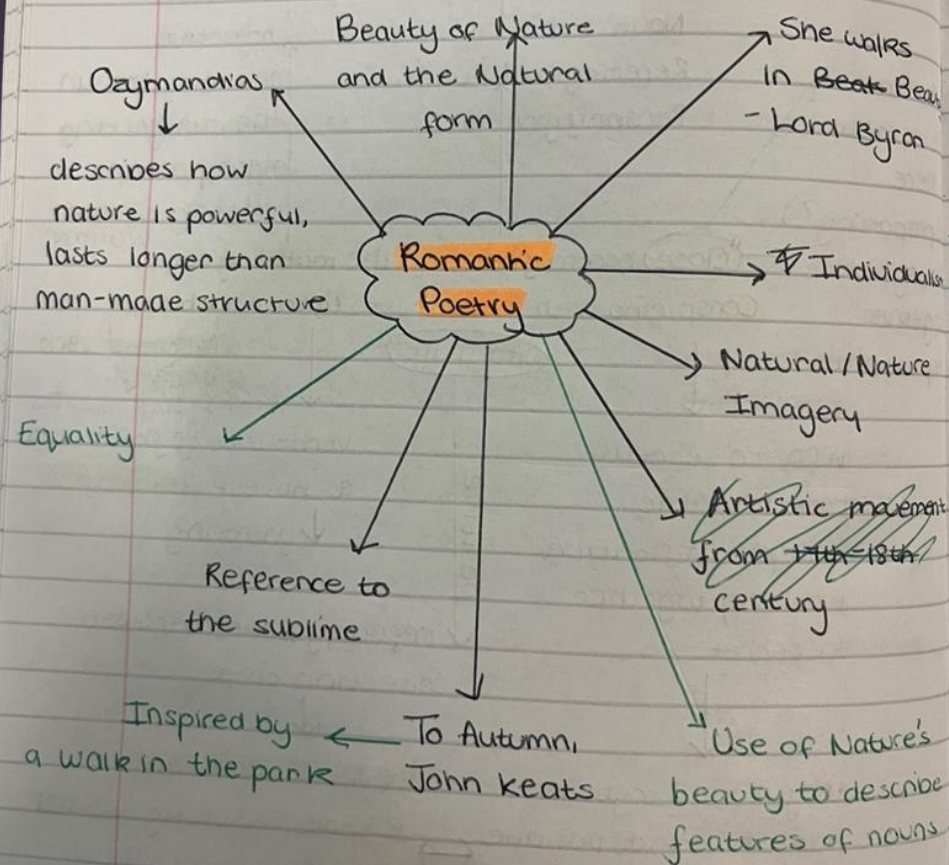
Brain Dump

This is one technique which can be applied to most subjects:

1. Choose one topic – could be broad (eg A Christmas Carol) or could be specific (eg The theme of kindness in A Christmas Carol / the character of Scrooge etc)
2. Set timer – something short eg 5 or 10 mins
3. **Without looking at any notes**, write down everything you can remember about that topic – general points, associated quotations, author's message etc
4. Change colour pen
5. Now, using your personal notes or websites like GCSEPod/BBCBitesize/PMT, revise the topic for 15 minutes – check against what you managed to remember
6. Add anything you forgot or didn't know in your other colour pen
7. Prioritise the bits in the other colour for revision
8. **Extension** – after doing this process, answer a related exam question

Tuesday 15th October 2024

Retrieval task - Poetry Retrieval



Symbolism and myth - the folk folklore, legends and the supernatural, adds layers of meaning, allowed for exploration of universal themes

Rebellion against tradition, eg Lord Byron "Mad, bad and dangerous to know - rebellion, freedom and social justice"

Inspiration + terrorification, The Prelude - William Wordsworth orphaned by Nature - became a human presence "With trembling ears, I stirred", "through the meadows"

Real Vs Imagination
Small parts of the Nature

The Sublime -
fear and beauty, power of the mind, our conscience

Positive effect on people's lives, nature can make you be free, can inspire or destroy - links to Ozymandias.

focus on individual
The sublime - awe, fear, beauty, nature

Main aspects:

- emotion + imagination
- valued feelings over intuition
- nature - inspiration, reflected emotion, detested industrial revolution as it ruined nature

Romantic Poetry / Romanticism

Inspiration + terrorification, The Prelude - William Wordsworth orphaned by Nature - became a human presence "With trembling ears, I stirred", "through the meadows"	Romantic era	monarchy
	late 18th → mid 19th century	Wars of Independence
		Industrial revolution
		Irish famine, lots of poetry