

Tips for Revising

# GCSE English Literature



## SPECIFICATION

AQA GCSE English Literature

**Paper 1:** Macbeth and A Christmas Carol

**Paper 2:** An Inspector Calls, Poetry of Power and Conflict and Unseen Poetry

Access the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/specification/specification-at-a-glance>



## OVERVIEW OF PAPER 1

**What's Assessed?**

**Section A:** Macbeth

**Section B:** A Christmas Carol

You will answer 1 question in each section where you will write in detail about an extract from the text, and then about the play as a whole. You might explore how themes, characterisation and ideas in the extract are developed across the text.

**Exam length:** 1 hour, 45 minutes

*Worth 40% of the overall qualification*

## OVERVIEW OF PAPER 2

**What's Assessed?**

**Section A:** An Inspector Calls. Answer 1 question from a choice of two. One will be about a character, the other will be about a theme.

**Section B:** Poetry of Power and Conflict. One poem from the anthology will be printed for you. You will need to compare this with another poem of your choice from the anthology. You will not have a copy of the anthology with you.

**Section C:** Unseen Poetry. Answer one question on an unseen poem. Then answer a second question comparing that poem to another unseen poem.

**Exam length:** 2 hours 15 minutes.

*Worth 60% of the overall qualification*

## USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/>

[Access lessons on each text at Oak National Academy.](#)

<https://www.litcharts.com/>

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/gcse-aqa/>

Access past papers here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8702/assessment-resources>



## REVISION VIDEOS

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

<https://www.youtube.com/@staceyreay>



REVISION

## REVISION METHODS

- Draw mind maps about each character from the set texts, and include any key quotes and themes to use when writing about them.
- Create flashcards to remember important quotes, techniques, and context points to support your answers.
- Practise planning essays from past papers.
- Get a friend or family member to ask you questions to test you on the set texts.
- Take Cornell notes as you watch revision videos or read information from the websites listed above.
- Ask your teachers for revision materials such as revision clocks, Venn diagrams (for comparing the P&C poems), deconstruction sheets and planning grids.