# How to be Successful in GCSE English 7+

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(English Curriculum Team Lead)
atalbot@celtrust.org

September 2024

# Key Questions

- ✓ What **important information** should we know about the **English GCSE exams**?
- ✓ How does **Poltair School** prepare students for their English exams?
- ✓ How can we **support students at home** to help them succeed in their English exams?

# GCSE English Language

**Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (80 marks)**

One fiction text

Section A: Four reading questions

Section B: One creative writing task (choice of two tasks)

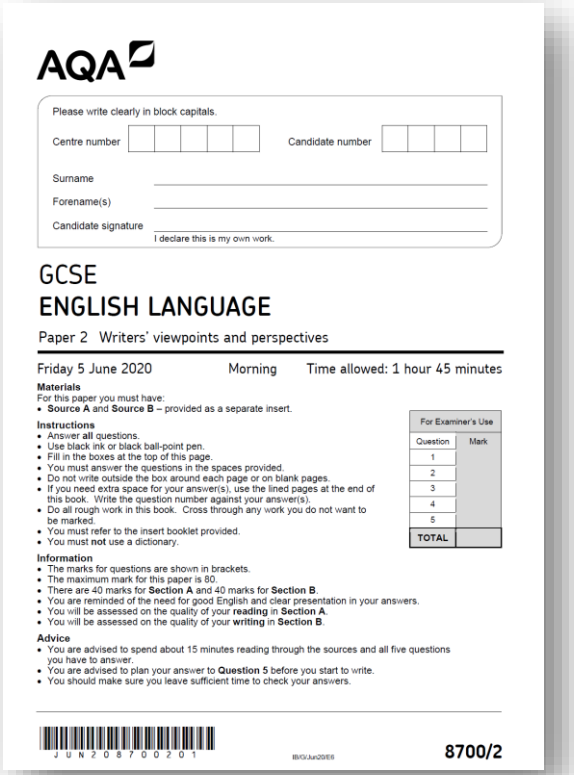
**Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints And Perspectives (80 marks)**

Two non-fiction texts

Section A: Four reading questions

Section B: One non-fiction task

Both papers 1 hour and 45 mins



AQA

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number | Candidate number

Surname

Forename(s)

Candidate signature

I declare this is my own work.

GCSE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Friday 5 June 2020 Morning Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

**Materials**

For this paper you must have:
- **Source A** and **Source B** – provided as a separate insert.

**Instructions**
- Answer **all** questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes at the top of this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- If you need extra space for your answer(s), use the lined pages at the end of this book. Write the question number against your answer(s).
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the insert booklet provided.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

| For Examiner's Use | |
|---|---|
| Question | Mark |
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |
| 4 | |
| 5 | |
| TOTAL | |

**Information**
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- There are 40 marks for **Section A** and 40 marks for **Section B**.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **reading** in **Section A**.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in **Section B**.

**Advice**
- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the sources and all five questions you have to answer.
- You are advised to plan your answer to **Question 5** before you start to write.
- You should make sure you leave sufficient time to check your answers.

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8700/2

*Exam papers are available to read through in the Market Place.*

# GCSE English Language

## Paper 1

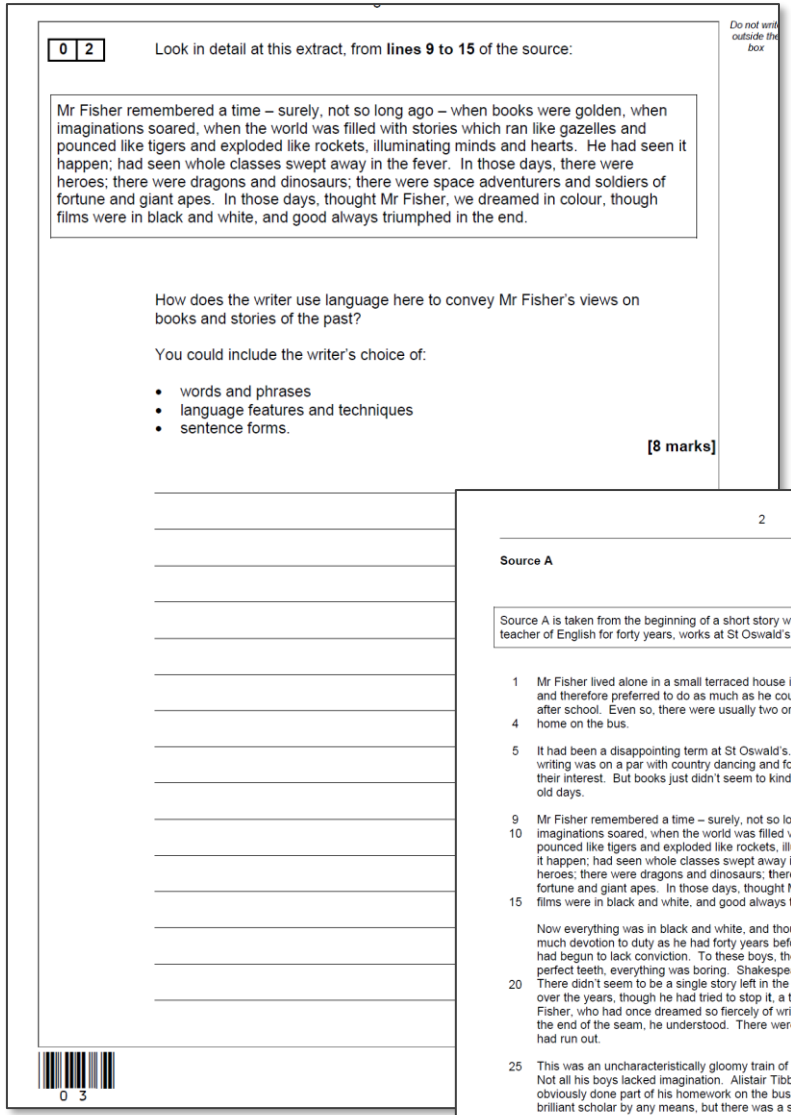
**Q1. List four things** 4 marks
**Q2. Language** 8 marks
**Q3. Structure** 8 marks
**Q4. Evaluation** 20 marks

**Q5. Narrative or descriptive writing** 24 + 16 marks

## Paper 2

**Q1. Four true statements** 4 marks
**Q2. Comparing and inference** 8 marks
**Q3. Language** 12 marks
**Q4. Comparing writers' views and methods** 16 marks

**Q5. Persuasive writing** 24 + 16 marks



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How does the writer use language here to convey Mr Fisher's views on books and stories of the past?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

**[8 marks]**

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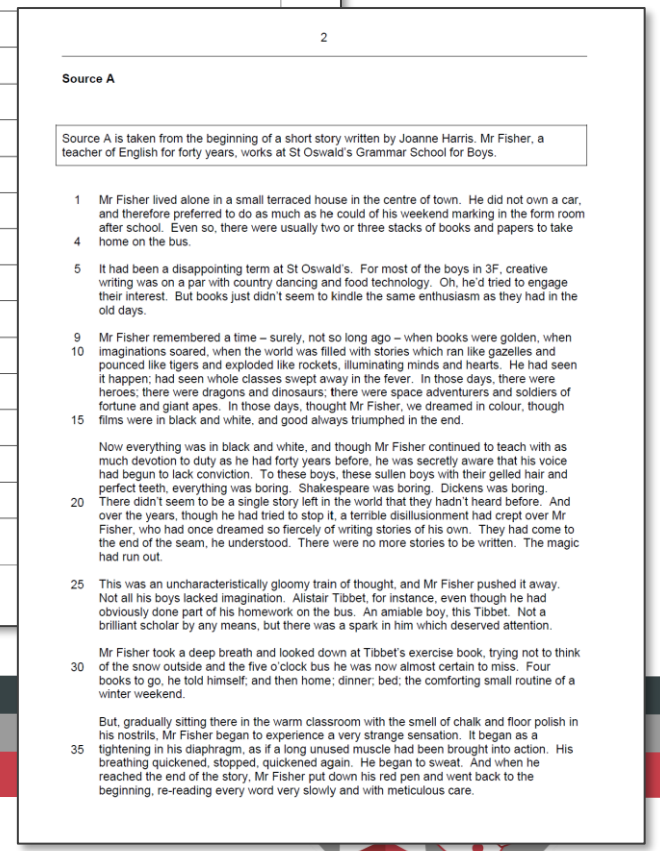

2

**Source A**

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Mr Fisher lived alone in a small terraced house in the centre of town. He did not own a car, and therefore preferred to do as much as he could of his weekend marking in the form room after school. Even so, there were usually two or three stacks of books and papers to take home on the bus.

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# GCSE English Language

## How do I achieve a Grade 6+?

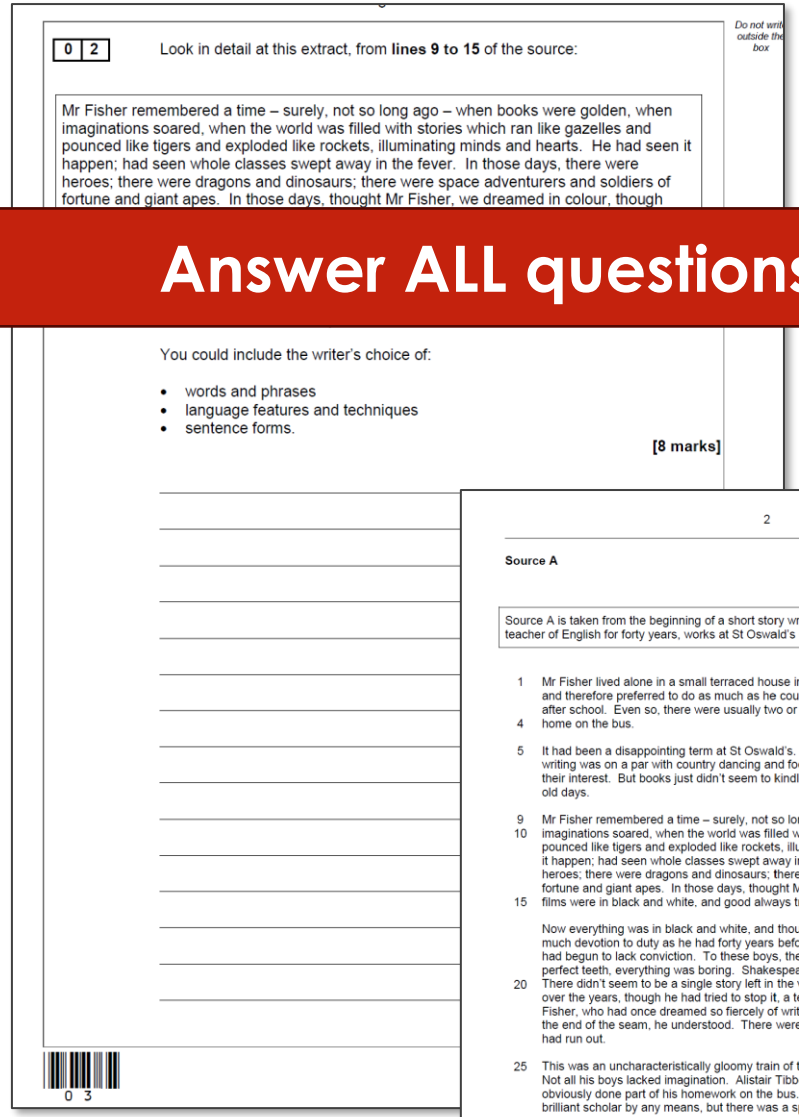
### Section A

- **Perceptive and detailed answers**.
- A range of **references/quotations**.
- Sophisticated use of **subject terminology**.
- **Convincing and critical analysis.**

### Section B

- Convincing and engaging **ideas** conveyed with an extensive **vocabulary**.
- A range of accurate **punctuation** and **spellings**.
- Full range of **sentence forms**.

**Answer ALL questions!**



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You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

**[8 marks]**

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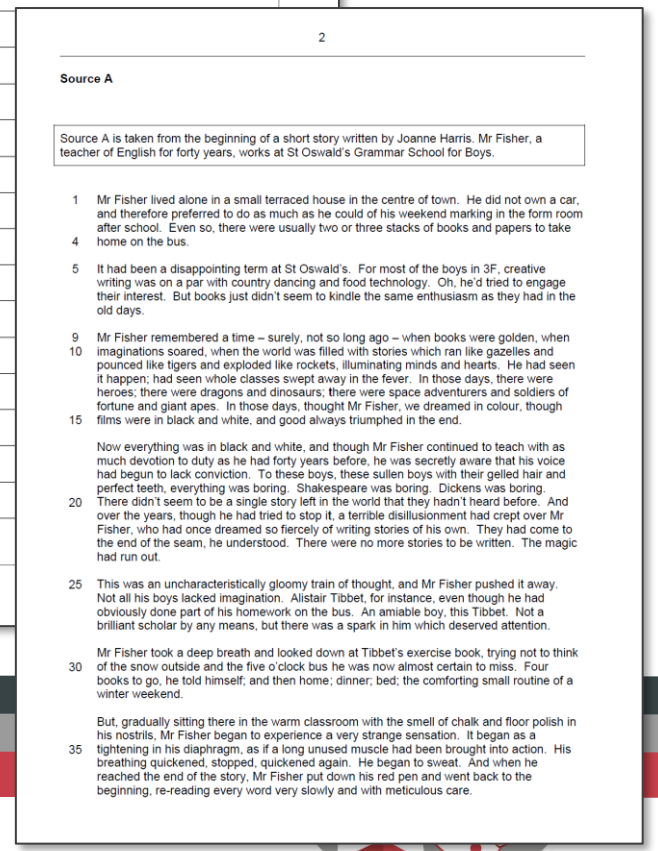

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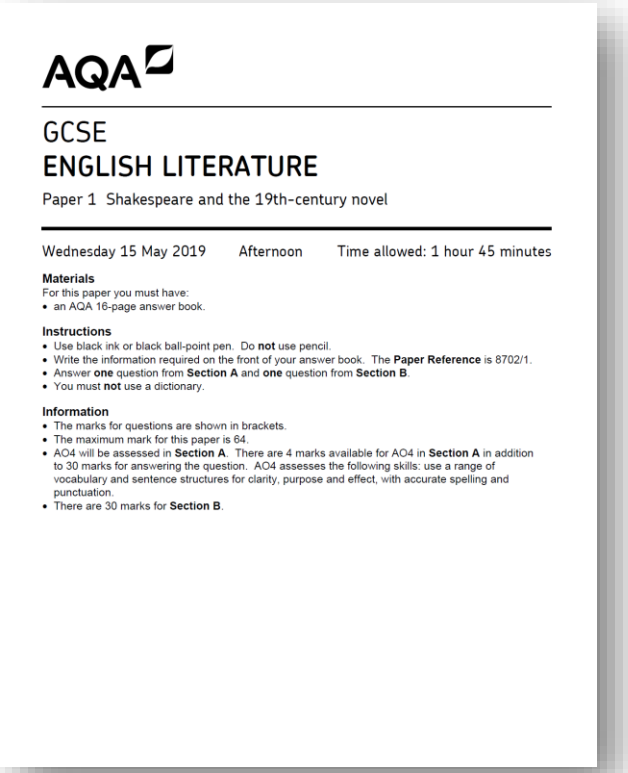
# GCSE English Literature AQA



AQA

GCSE
ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Wednesday 15 May 2019 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

**Materials**
For this paper you must have:
- an AQA 16-page answer book.

**Instructions**
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do **not** use pencil.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 8702/1.
- Answer **one** question from **Section A** and **one** question from **Section B**.
- You must **not** use a dictionary.

**Information**
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 64.
- AO4 will be assessed in **Section A**. There are 4 marks available for AO4 in **Section A** in addition to 30 marks for answering the question. AO4 assesses the following skills: use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.
- There are 30 marks for **Section B**.

## Paper 1: Shakespeare and Nineteenth Century Novel

Section A: Macbeth

Section B: A Christmas Carol

1 hour 45 minutes

## Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A: An Inspector Calls

Section B: Power and Conflict poems

Section C: Analysis of one unseen poem and comparison of two unseen poems

2 hours 15 minutes (45 minutes on each section)

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*Exam papers are available to read through in the Market Place.*

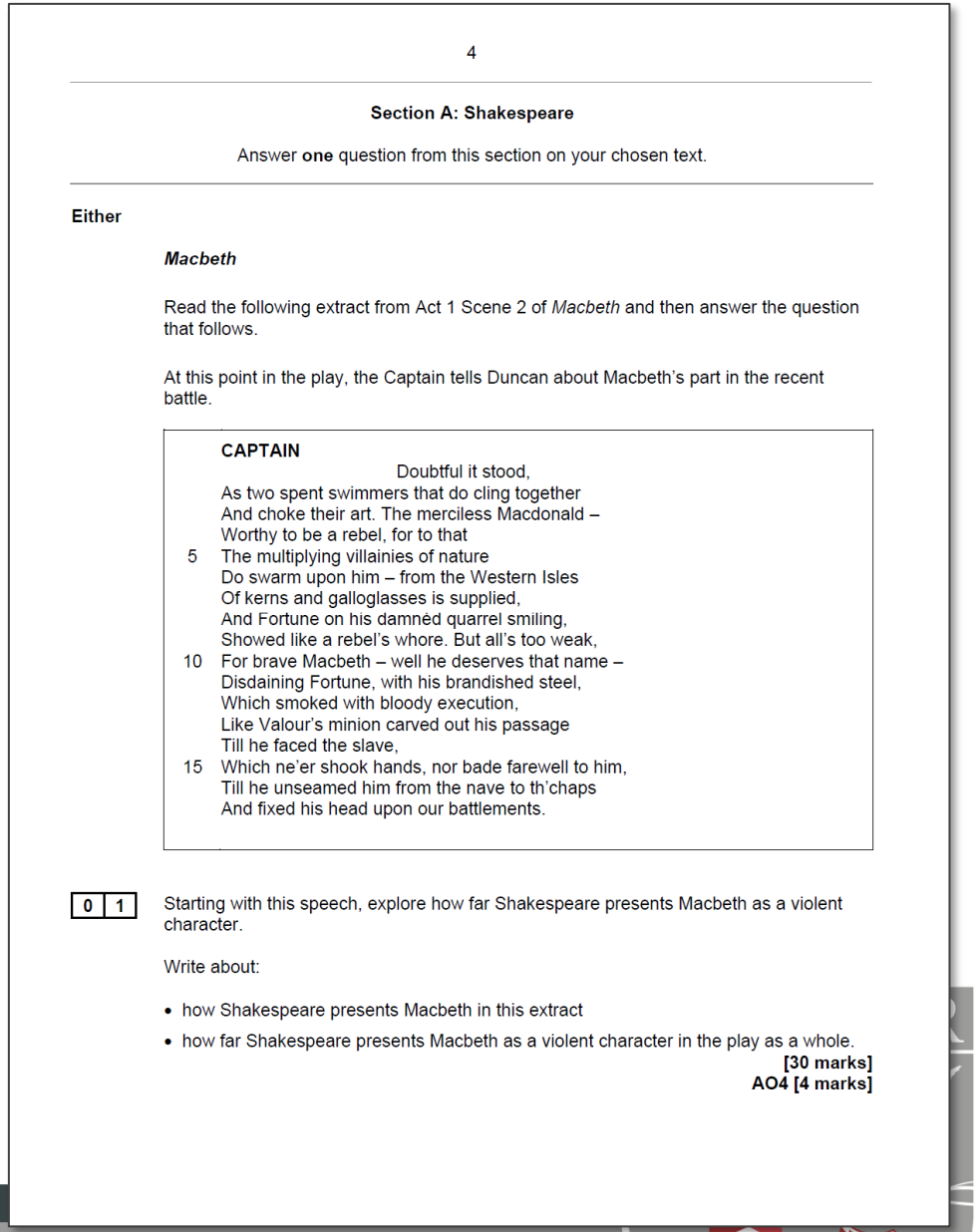
# GCSE English Literature

**Paper 1**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Macbeth** | 30 marks + 4 SPaG marks |
| **A Christmas Carol** | 30 marks |

**Paper 2**

| | |
|---|---|
| **An Inspector Calls** | 30 marks + 4 SPaG marks |
| **Power and Conflict Poetry** | 30 marks |
| **Unseen Poetry** | 24 marks + 8 marks |



4

**Section A: Shakespeare**

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

**Either**

***Macbeth***

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Captain tells Duncan about Macbeth's part in the recent battle.

**CAPTAIN**

Doubtful it stood,
As two spent swimmers that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonald –
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
The multiplying villainies of nature
Do swarm upon him – from the Western Isles
Of kerns and galloglasses is supplied,
And Fortune on his damnèd quarrel smiling,
Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak,
For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name –
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like Valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave,
Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseamed him from the nave to th'chaps
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

0 1 Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character in the play as a whole.

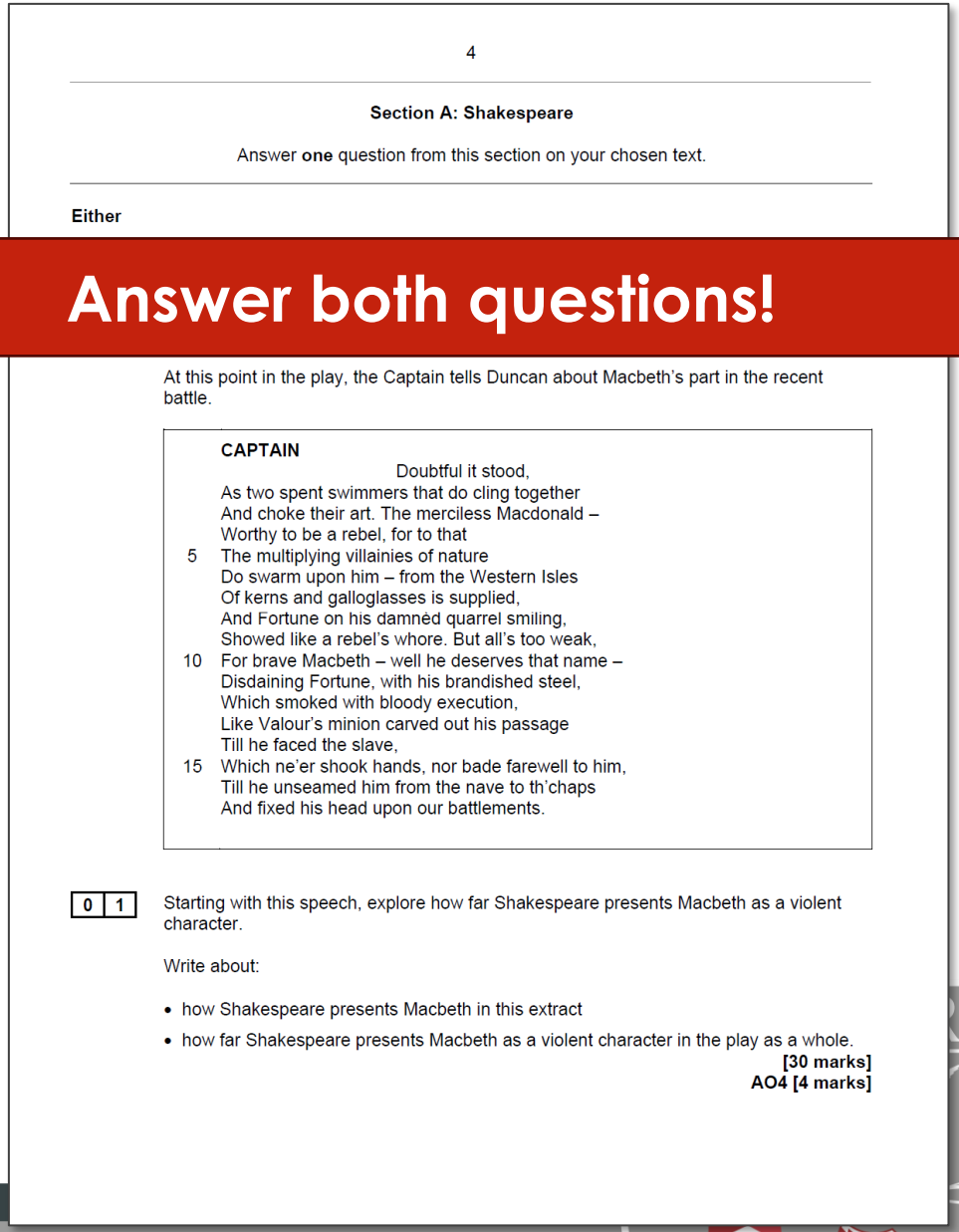
**[30 marks]**
**AO4 [4 marks]**

*Exam papers are available to read through in the Market Place.*

# GCSE English Literature

## How do I achieve a Grade 6+?

- **Thoughtful, detailed and developed answers**.
- Relevant **references** (including quotations) embedded throughout the response.
- Detailed, multi-layered **analysis** of quotations.
- Correct **subject terminology**.
- **Context and 'big ideas'** closely linked to references and used to develop analysis.



4

**Section A: Shakespeare**

Answer **one** question from this section on your chosen text.

**Either**

**Answer both questions!**

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**[30 marks]**
**AO4 [4 marks]**

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# GCSE English Language

## How do I achieve a Grade 7?

**Section A**

- **Perceptive and detailed answers**.
- A range of **references/quotations**.
- Sophisticated use of **subject terminology**.
- **Convincing and critical analysis.**

**Section B**

- Convincing and engaging **ideas** conveyed with an extensive **vocabulary**.
- A range of accurate **punctuation** and **spellings**.
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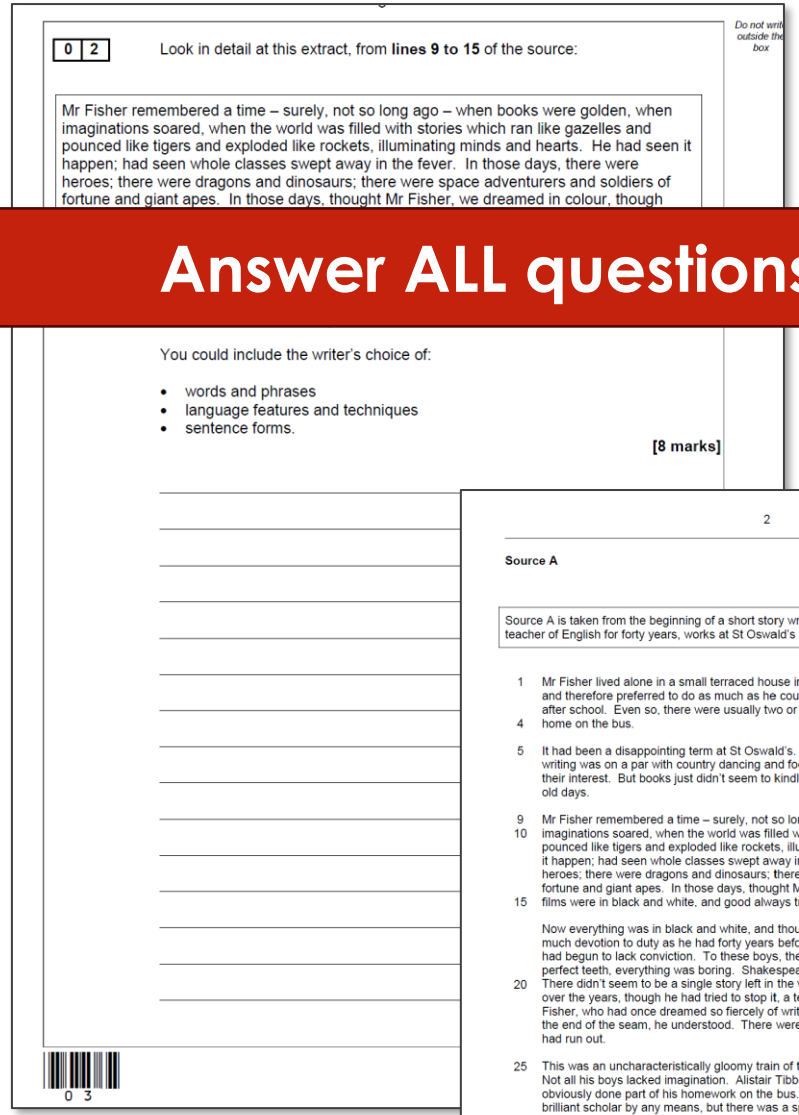
**Answer ALL questions!**



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**[8 marks]**

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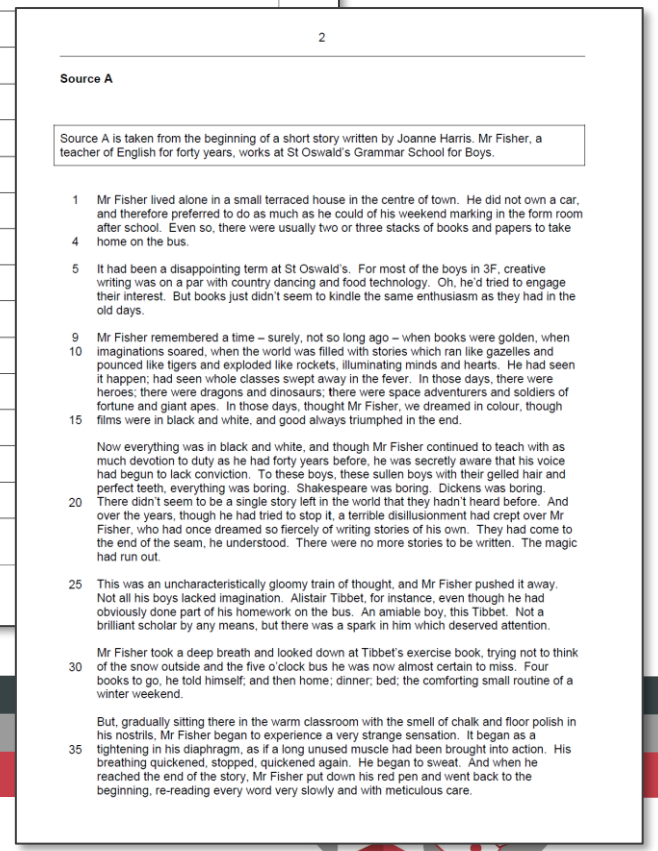

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# The Poltair English Year 11 Team

| | |
|---|---|
| 11xE1 | Mr Howson |
| 11xE2 | Miss Talbot |
| 11xE3 | Miss Owen |
| 11xE4 | Mrs Langton |
| 11yE1 | Mrs Potter |
| 11yE2 | Miss Allday |
| 11yE3 | Miss Talbot |

# Curriculum and Assessment

Studying **Macbeth**
Revising **A Christmas Carol**
Revising **Language Paper 1**

**PPE1 window = 18/11/24 to 29/11/24**

Studying the remaining **Power and Conflict Anthology** poems
Revising **Language Paper 2**
Revising **An Inspector Calls** and the **Power and Conflict Anthology**
Analysing and comparing **Unseen Poetry**

**PPE2 window = 03/03/25 to 15/03/25**

Revising **all sections of all papers** with a focus on **exam technique.**

**GCSE exams**

**Assessment:**

- ✓ 'Live' teacher feedback
- ✓ Peer and self-review using 'student friendly success criteria
- ✓ Knowledge checks
- ✓ Mid-cycle extended responses
- ✓ PPEs
- ✓ GCSE Exams

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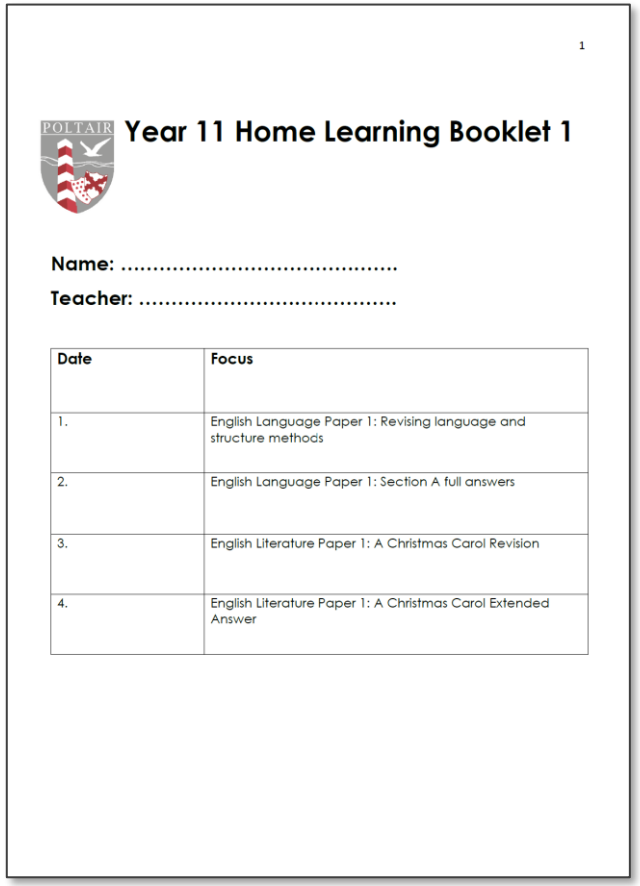
# November PPEs

- Language Paper 1
- Literature Paper 1 (Macbeth and A Christmas Carol)

# Home Learning

**Weekly 60-minute tasks alternating between:**

- Knowledge learning and quizzing
- Extended writing (exam questions)



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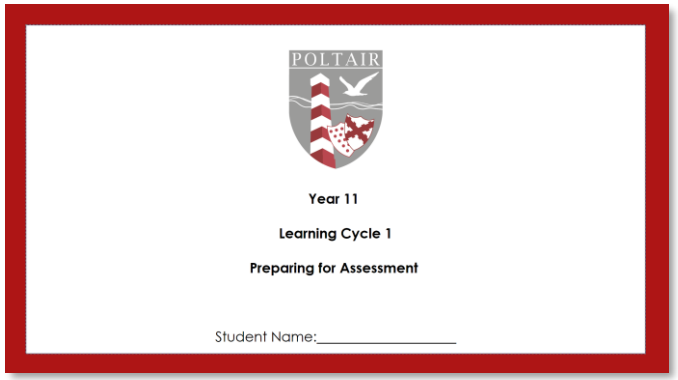
**Year 11 Home Learning Booklet 1**

**Name:** .....

**Teacher:** .....

| Date | Focus |
|---|---|
| 1. | English Language Paper 1: Revising language and structure methods |
| 2. | English Language Paper 1: Section A full answers |
| 3. | English Literature Paper 1: A Christmas Carol Revision |
| 4. | English Literature Paper 1: A Christmas Carol Extended Answer |

ClassCharts



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Year 11

Learning Cycle 1

Preparing for Assessment

Student Name:_____

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# Extra-Curricular Support

**Year 11 Challenge Lectures (Mr Howson)**

Lecture-style sessions to provide students with knowledge required to achieve Grade 7+.

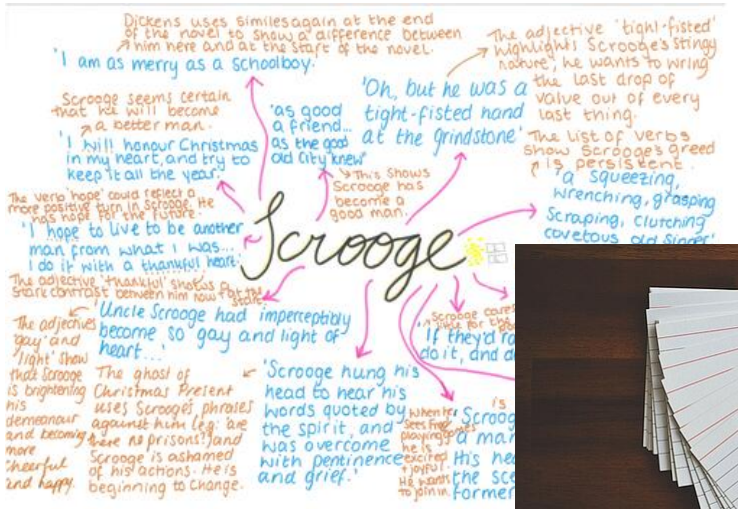
**English Home Learning Drop-In Sessions (Miss Allday)**

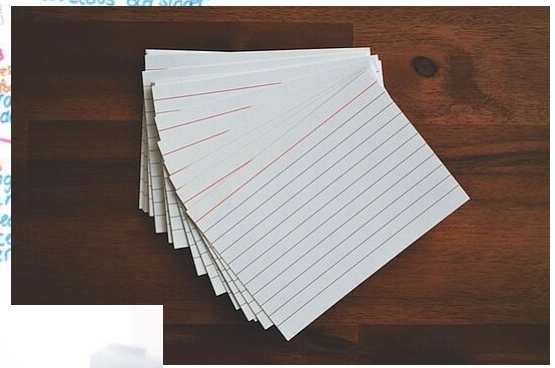
A member of the English team available in a classroom to support with home learning or independent study for English.

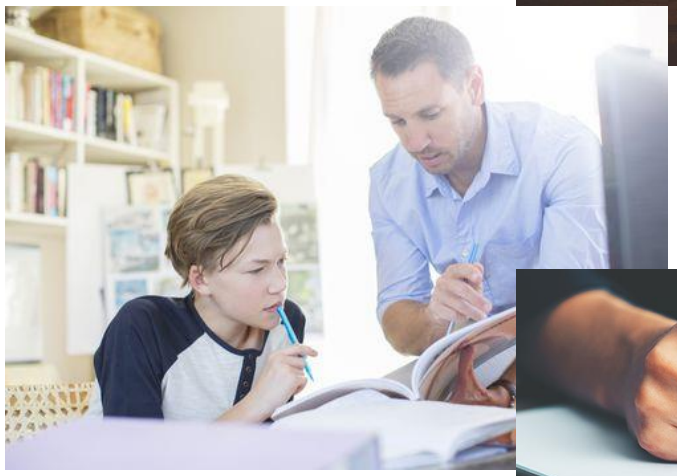
**Small Group Intervention (Mrs Potter, Miss Talbot, Miss Langton, Miss Owen)**

Invite-only, targeted sessions providing small group intervention based on needs identified following review of most recent assessment data.

# Active Revision





At Poltair we SORT it!

# How can I revise for GCSE English?

| S - Select | O - Organise | R - Recall | T – Test |
|---|---|---|---|
| Select a **paper or question** by reviewing your **PLCs** or **assessment feedback** to identify target areas for improvement. | **Find**:<br>✓ Home learning booklet<br>✓ Past papers<br>✓ Example answers<br>✓ Knowledge Organiser pages<br>✓ Student-friendly success criteria<br>✓ Recommended revision videos, podcasts and/or online resources<br>✓ Class notes<br>**Make**:<br>✓ Flash cards<br>✓ Mind-maps<br>✓ Cornell notes | **Self-test (look, cover, write, check) or recall key information** with the help of family and friends.<br>**Practise writing descriptions/ narratives or thesis introductions** following the structure and content you have developed in class.<br>**Complete grammar activities** to improve your technical accuracy (SPaG). | **Practise exam questions** in timed conditions, seek feedback and answer them again to improve. |

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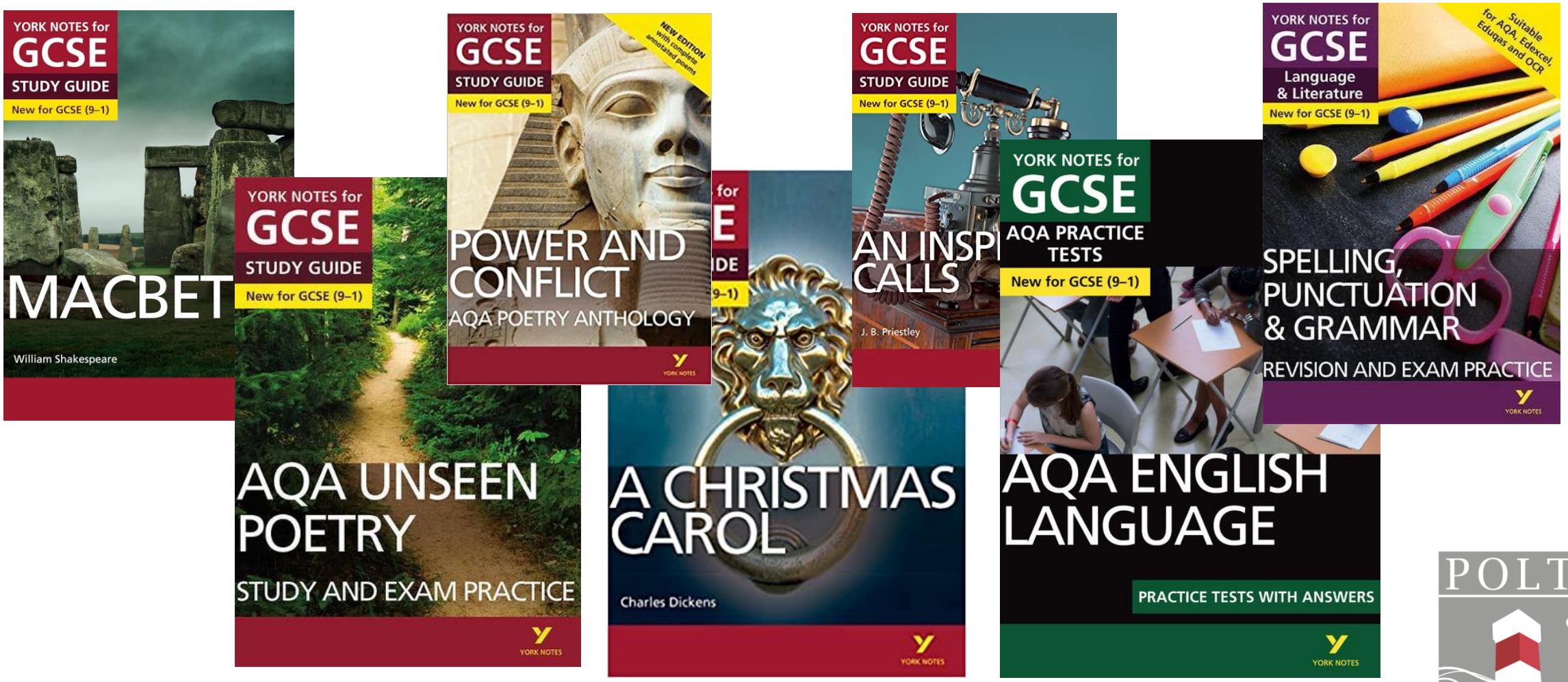
# How can I revise for GCSE English?

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# ANY QUESTIONS?