

## English Revision Strategies:

For **GCSE English Language** students should:

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. This should include literature and literary non-fiction, as well as other writing, such as reviews and journalism
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.
- Read good quality newspapers regularly: the language papers will give texts from newspapers for students to analyse and the writing section will often ask them to write a broadsheet article – if students are not well-informed, they will lose out.
- Watch a selection of documentaries and award winning films to broaden cultural knowledge
- Watch the news regularly, as well as topical news programmes, like Question Time, News Night and Mock the Week. Language exam topics are often current topics that have been in the news throughout the year e.g. in the 2016 exam the topic focus was on the threat to bees; something that has been widely covered in all news and social media platforms

For **GCSE English Literature** students should:

- Have read and re-read their exam texts
- Know all characters, including their function in the text, their qualities and characteristics, their actions and key scenes.
- Memorise a range of key quotations from all exam texts
- Know all key events, including how they help to structure the text and how they build tension
- Be able to talk in depth about the key theme in a text, including how they link to the characters, plot, events and context
- Be able to talk about the authors' intentions and influences on the writing of the text (context)
- Be able to identify and analyse a range of literary features and techniques, such as similes, metaphors, pathetic fallacy and juxtaposition
- Be able to confidently (and in detail) analyse how writers use language to create images and impressions i.e. which words in a quote are the most powerful or meaningful? Why? What images / impressions do they create? What do they tell us about the character? Their intentions?
- Give their own opinions and impressions of a text; including characters, events, themes, author intentions and language
- Visit local theatres regularly, such as The Mill, New Theatre in Oxford, Oxford Play House and Milton Keynes Theatre
- Attend international film screenings at the Phoenix Picture house in Oxford and Everyman cinema in Cheltenham
- Read shortlisted books from the Booker and Carnegie Prize and try to find thematic, character and plot links with exam texts
- Read the recommended reading list provided by the English Department