

# HOW TO REVISE FOR YOUR GCSE ENGLISH EXAMS

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# GCSE Overview

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Your English GCSE exams will be testing the **skills and knowledge** you have learnt **across KS3 and KS4**.

You will **sit four separate exams: two for Language and two for Literature**.

You **cannot take any texts** you have been studying into your exams.

The examiner will be **assessing your ability** to **show your understanding** of the plays, poems and novel you have studied at KS4. As a result, you will need to:

- learn key quotations from each text
- understand contextual ideas which may have influenced each writer
- understand key themes and concepts
- understand how to analyse language

**DO NOT**  
waste valuable  
lesson time by  
not revising at  
home



**DID YOU KNOW**  
By the end of Year  
11, you will have  
approximately spent  
566 hours of lesson  
time in English?

# Common Beliefs about Revising for English

***“You don’t need to read the book. Just watch the film because it will be exactly like it.”***

***“You can’t revise for English.”***

***“Just focus on one of your English exams so it is less information to remember. I don’t need two English GCSE’s.”***

***“Leave your revision to the day before and then stay up all night so it is all fresh in your mind.”***

***“Learn one poem and just write about it.”***

***“I won’t need English when I leave school so what’s the point in passing it? I hate reading and writing.”***

**Do you think people who have these beliefs are likely to pass their English GCSE exams?**

# How to Revise English Language & Literature

**Flash cards for key terms/amazing vocabulary/quotes.**

**Practise/past papers! The more you practise, the easier you will find this.**

**Complete grammar activities to improve your SPaG and technical accuracy.**

**Learn the bookmarks!**

**Practise selecting judicious quotations and writing analytically about them.**

**Practise your writing skills by completing 200 word challenges in timed conditions.**

**Understand the differences between language and structural features. Test yourself!**

**Complete quotation drills – ask your English teacher for resources which will help.**

**Watch YouTube videos to revise the Literature texts. Make notes. (Mr Bruff & Stacey Reay)**

**Read more non-fiction: news articles/blogs/famous speeches. Become familiar with different writing styles.**

**Read more frequently so you can improve your reading age. This will help you in your exam.**

**Understand the different formats when writing for a purpose.**

# Why does Passing my English GCSEs matter?

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## **FACT**

Colleges will look at your English grades. If you do not pass, you will have to resit in college.

## **FACT**

Reading and writing are skills for life. You need them to function socially and professionally.

## **FACT**

Passing English makes you more employable.

## **FACT**

To join the Armed Forces, you need to pass English.

## **FACT**

When applying for a job, employers look at GCSE grades. They will expect to see this on your CV.

## **FACT**

If you apply for university in the future, you must pass English.

## **FACT**

Reading and writing is required in every job.

## **FACT**

The better you do in your GCSEs, you likelier you are to have a job in the future you enjoy.



# Research

## Quantity or Quality – which is more effective?

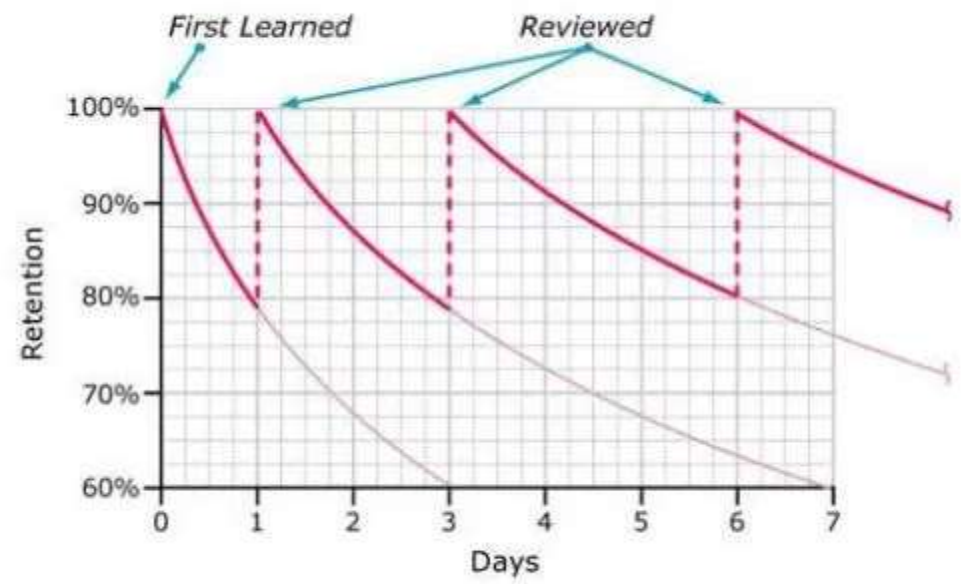
**Memory is an important part of learning.** It is possible to improve your memory but hard work is involved. Developing memory techniques is vital especially when you are revising for English and you have so much to remember!

**DID YOU KNOW**  
**80% of what you learnt today you will forget by tomorrow?**

Just think, how much do **you really remember** from your English lessons – all 566 of them!

Research suggests that **students who revise more frequently but for a shorter amount of time are more likely to remember what they have learnt.** For instance, revising for 1 hour daily over 10 days is more effective than revising for 10 hours in one day.

Typical Forgetting Curve for Newly Learned Information



**In order to remember more, the more you need to review work you have already studied.** For instance, if you are studying Romeo and Juliet, revise another text at home.

### WHY?

**The more you improve your memory, the more knowledge you will recall, the more confident you will feel in your exams.**

# The Science of Revision:

## FACT:

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. However, 27% of boys and 39% of girls skip it.



*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that skipping this meal significantly reduces students' attention.

How many hours have you wasted being distracted?

## FACT:

If you keep your phone on you whilst revising, you will become distracted.



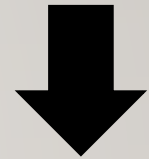
*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that the mere sight of a phone was enough to reduce a person's ability to focus.

Could you make small changes to your daily life to help improve your grades?

## FACT:

Having enough sleep is vitally important in order to improve students' attention.



*What is the impact of this?*

Research has found that the less you sleep, the more likely you are to become distracted and lose focus.

Could you go to bed earlier to make sure you are sleeping enough?