



West Park School

English Literature

GCSE Examination Summer 2026

For your examinations in English Literature you must **LEARN** and **REVISE** the following content and skills:

Make sure you know the assessment objectives for English literature:

AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts.

AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology.

AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.

AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Paper 1:

Macbeth

This question will assess AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4.

You will be given an extract – this can be from anywhere in the play. You will be expected to write one extended answer (an essay) showing your knowledge of the text. You must write about the extract and you must explore ideas from other parts of the play!

Learn and revise the key characters:

Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Macduff, Banquo and other minor characters.

Learn and revise key themes:

Ambition, Nature, Blood, Appearance and Reality, Witchcraft and Supernatural as well as Fate and Freewill.

Learn and revise the methods used by Shakespeare to present ideas:

The structure of the play, metaphors and similes, stage directions, emotive language, dialogue (how the characters speak and what they say) and symbolism, etc.

Learn and revise the context of the play:

What was life like in the Jacobean era, and what beliefs did people have.

The Sign of Four

This question will assess AO1, AO2 and AO3

You will be given an extract – this can be from anywhere in the novel. You will be expected to write one extended answer (an essay) showing your knowledge of the text. You must write about the extract and you must explore ideas from other parts of the play!

Learn and revise the key characters:

Sherlock, Watson, Mary Morstan, Johnathan Small, Tonga, Athelney Jones and the Police Force and other minor characters.

Learn and revise key themes:

Justice, Mystery and Gothic, Romance, Crime and the Detective Genre, etc.

Learn and revise the methods used by Conan Doyle to present ideas:

The structure of the novel, metaphors and similes, language choices, dialogue and symbolism etc.

Learn and revise the context of the play:

What was life like in the Victorian era, and what beliefs did people have. Think about attitudes to crime, women and race, etc.

Paper 2:

An Inspector Calls

This question will assess AO1, AO2, AO3 and AO4.

You will be given a choice of two questions – only answer one. You will be expected to write one extended answer (an essay) showing your knowledge of the play.

Learn and revise the key characters:

Mr and Mrs Birling, Gerald, Eva Smith, Sheila and Eric Birling and The Inspector.

Learn and revise key themes:

Social class, responsibility, socialism and capitalism, selfishness, younger and older generation, etc.

Learn and revise the methods used by Priestley to present ideas:

The structure of the play, metaphors and similes, stage directions, emotive language, dialogue (how the characters speak and what they say) and symbolism, etc.

Learn and revise the context of the play:

What Britain was like in 1912 (and why Priestley chose this year) and 1945. You should revise key events and attitudes in British society.

Love and Relationships Poetry Anthology

This question will assess: AO1, AO2 and AO3.

One poem will be printed on your examination paper and you will be required to compare it with one other from the list provided (from memory). You will be expected to write one extended answer (an essay) that explores the focus in the examination question.

You will need to learn and revise the following fifteen poems:

When We Two Parted

Love's Philosophy

Porphyria's Lover

Sonnet 29 – 'I think of thee!'

Neutral Tones

Letters from Yorkshire

The Farmer's Bride

Walking Away

Eden Rock

Follower

Mother, any distance

Before You Were Mine

Winter Swans

Singh Song!

Climbing My Grandfather

Unseen Poetry

These questions will assess AO1 and AO2.

Section A is worth **24 marks**. You will be given a poem that you have never seen before. You should annotate the poem you are given, and then you should answer the question that follows. The question will ask you to analyse the ideas (AO1) and the language and structure of the poem (AO2).

Section B is worth **8 marks**. In this section, you will be presented with a second poem. This will be a second poem that you have not seen before. You will be asked to compare the **methods (language and structure)** used in the two poems.

