



The Sutton Academy

GCSE English Language & Literature Parent Support Booklet

Practical, step-by-step ways to support revision at home (using the same approaches students use in class).

● Language	Paper 1 (Fiction) & Paper 2 (Non-fiction)	● Literature	Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls, Poetry
● Exam Skills	Timing, planning, paragraph structure	● Support	Teams packs + practice papers

Where to find resources: Microsoft Teams has revision packs and practice papers for both Language and Literature. Encourage your child to use these every week.

Quick Start (the routine that works)

- 1) Rotate weekly: **Language one week, Literature the next.**
- 2) Start with the topics they are **worst** at (build confidence quickly).
- 3) Do **20 minutes 'Century' quick revision** each week (for Literature).
- 4) Complete **one longer task per week**: either a Literature essay or the Language reading section.
- 5) Use the **structure strips** (sentence stems) to keep answers focused.

2-Week Rotating Revision Timetable (Example)

This sample timetable assumes **30–45 minutes per day**. Adapt timings to suit your household. The key is consistency.

Day	Week A: LANGUAGE	Week B: LITERATURE
Mon	10 min vocab + 20 min Paper 1 reading (Q2/3)	20 min Century quick recap + Macbeth/ACC quote quiz
Tue	10 min retrieval + 20 min Paper 2 comparison (Q2)	Macbeth: plan 3 points + 3 quotes (theme/character)
Wed	Plan Q4 evaluation (3 quotes) + 10 min reflect	A Christmas Carol: revise 4 Scrooges + short paragraph
Thu	Write 1 full reading answer (timed)	An Inspector Calls: theme plan (beginning/middle/end)
Fri	Creative writing: plan + opening paragraph (Q5)	Poetry: revise Core Four (2 quotes each) + comparison plan
Sat	Long task: Language reading section (45–60 min)	Long task: One Literature essay (45–60 min)
Sun	Improve: rewrite best paragraph using structure strip	Improve: edit one paragraph (add quote zoom + context sentence)

Tip: If your child misses a day, don't double up the next day. Just continue with the plan.

English Language: What Success Looks Like

Students do best when they follow timings and use the sentence stems from the structure strips.

Paper 1 (Fiction)

Suggested order: Q5 first (45 mins), then Q1 (5), Q4 (20), Q2 (12), Q3 (12).

Q2 Language: Pick 3 quotes. Zoom in on a key word. Use: *shows / suggests / highlights*.

Q3 Structure: Opening → middle → end. Track shifts in mood/tension/focus.

Q4 Evaluation: Split the statement into 2–3 parts. Agree/disagree and prove it with 3–4 quotes.

Paper 2 (Non-fiction)

Suggested order: Q5 first (45 mins), then Q1 (5), Q3 (12), Q4 (20), Q2 (10).

Comparisons: Choose 2 quotes from each source. Use: *Similarly / By contrast*.

Viewpoint writing: Strong opening → anecdote → 2 arguments (facts) → counterargument → solutions → strong ending.

Parent prompt questions (5-minute check-ins)

- What is the writer trying to make the reader think or feel?
- Which single word is most powerful in that quote — and why?
- Where does the mood change in the extract?
- What is the writer's attitude (positive/negative/mocking/admiring)?

English Literature: What to Prioritise

Literature success comes from: **knowing quotations**, **explaining meanings**, and **linking to themes and context**.

A Christmas Carol

Students must learn the **4 Scrooges: Misanthropic, Nostalgic, Piteous, Benevolent**.

For each one: learn the quote, explain what it shows, and link to Dickens' message about society and compassion.

Macbeth & An Inspector Calls

Revise characters and themes (beginning → middle → end). Learn a small set of versatile quotes that fit multiple themes.

Use context briefly to explain the writer's message (power, society, responsibility).

Power & Conflict Poetry

Start with the **Core Four: Ozymandias, Storm on the Island, Kamikaze, Remains**.

Learn **2–3 key quotations per poem** and the **Big Idea**. Practise **comparison** using: similarly / however / by contrast.

Unseen Poetry (quick approach)

- Read the poem twice and underline key images.
- Split it into 3 sections and find 1–2 lines per section.
- Track tone shifts (does it become more hopeful, bitter, reflective?).
- Finish with the big idea the poet wants us to consider.

Essay Writing Tips (Parents' Checklist)

✓	Read the question twice and underline key words. Find synonyms.
✓	Plan 3 main ideas before writing. Attach one quotation to each idea.
✓	Use: Point → Evidence → Explain (zoom in) → Link .
✓	Zoom in on one word or phrase from every quote (connotations).
✓	Use analytical verbs: <i>suggests, implies, highlights, reinforces</i> .
✓	Finish paragraphs by linking back to the question focus.
✓	For poetry, compare deliberately: <i>Similarly / In contrast / However</i> .
✓	Aim for clarity first , then add sophistication (context, alternative reading).

Revision Recommendations (what works best)

●	Follow the 2-week rotation: Language then Literature.
●	Short daily sessions beat long weekly sessions (consistency over cramming).
●	Start with the weakest area first; end with something confident.
●	Use Microsoft Teams revision packs + practice papers weekly.
●	Make revision active: flashcards, self-quizzing, teaching someone else.
●	Complete one timed task each week (essay or reading section).
●	After practice, improve one paragraph using the structure strip.

How parents can help (without doing the work)

- Ask your child to teach you a quote or poem — explaining builds memory.
- Quiz little and often (5 quotes / 5 minutes).
- Encourage them to use sentence stems from structure strips.
- Praise effort and consistency rather than perfection.