

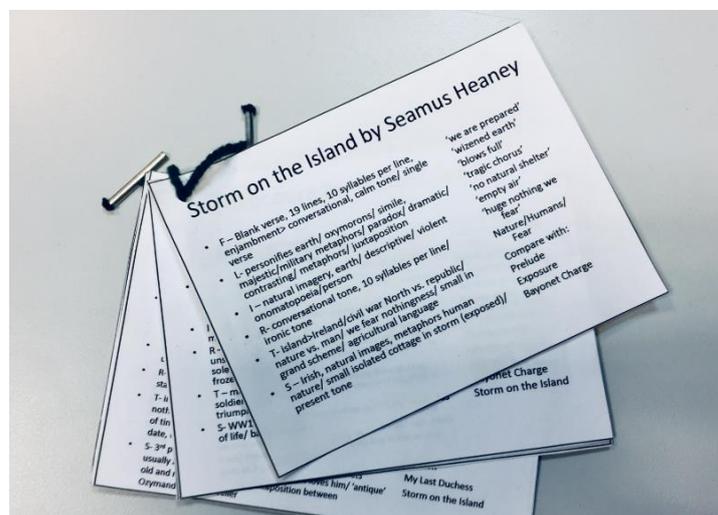
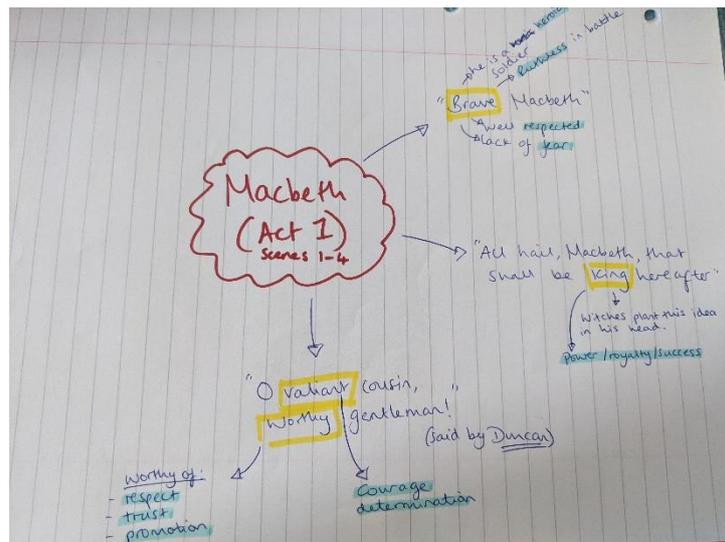
# Strategies to Revise for English

Remember that 'successive relearning' is key – keep testing yourself and use any 'gaps' in your knowledge to inform your next revision step.

Completing these tasks will help you to consolidate your learning, and will provide you with a set of ready-made revision materials you can return to again and again!

1. Start **collecting key quotations**: you could organise them by character, theme or context. Here are some ideas:
  - Create a mindmap with 5 key quotations for a chapter, act of a play, character or poem.
  - Underline the most important word in the quotation (remember short quotations – single words or short phrases are the best).
  - Annotate any ideas that you have about the character, theme or context from the quotation.
  - Use cue cards or post it notes to collect key quotations and create a display in your bedroom!

For example:

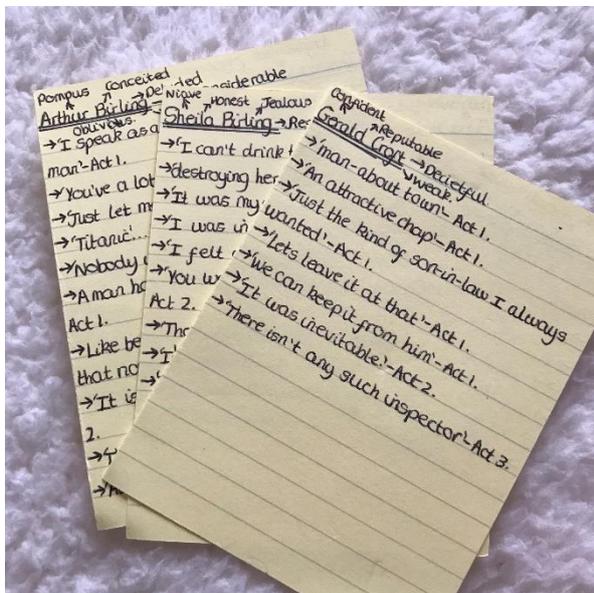


2. Use cue cards, or small pieces of paper to write **yourself quiz questions or flashcards** – on one side write the question, and on the other side write the answer. That way you can get family and friends to test you!

They could be based on any aspects of the text:

- Events – “What happens after....?”
- Characters – “Which character seems most selfish and why?”
- Quotations – missing word: “Screw your \_\_\_\_\_ to the sticking place”
- Themes – “Name three places where ideas love is explored in the play”
- Context – what was the class system in 1912 and how do we see this in *An Inspector Calls*?

For example:



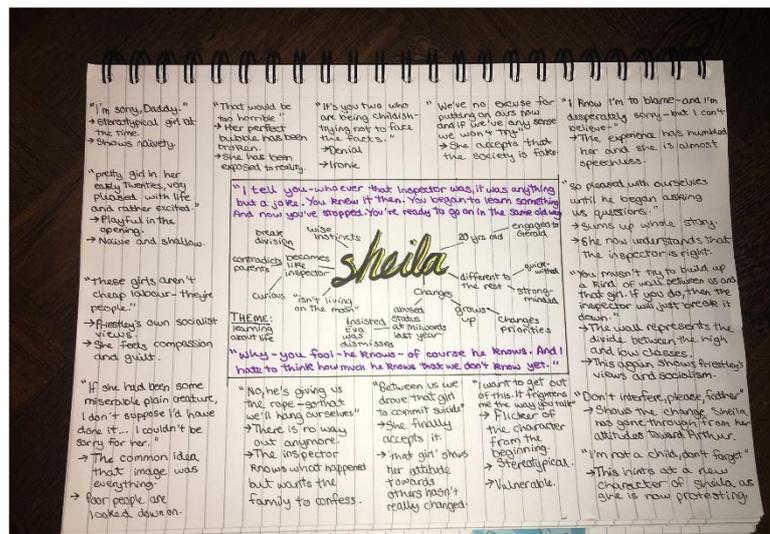
## How do we know Priestley was a Socialist?

- “We are members of one body.”
- The Inspector as a mouthpiece
- A ‘well-made play’
- Setting of 1912

3. **Keep character profiles.** Jot down all the important things that happen to the character throughout the text. For example:

- A timeline of key events that happen to them
- Key quotations which give you insight into the character
- Notes on how they are seen by other characters/interacted with by others
- Your thoughts and ideas about the character – what is their motivation? How does the reader respond to them? What different angles could they be viewed from?

For example:



4. Practise your analysis skills by **writing essay style questions and answering them!**

You could practise full paragraphs, or you could make detailed essay plans:

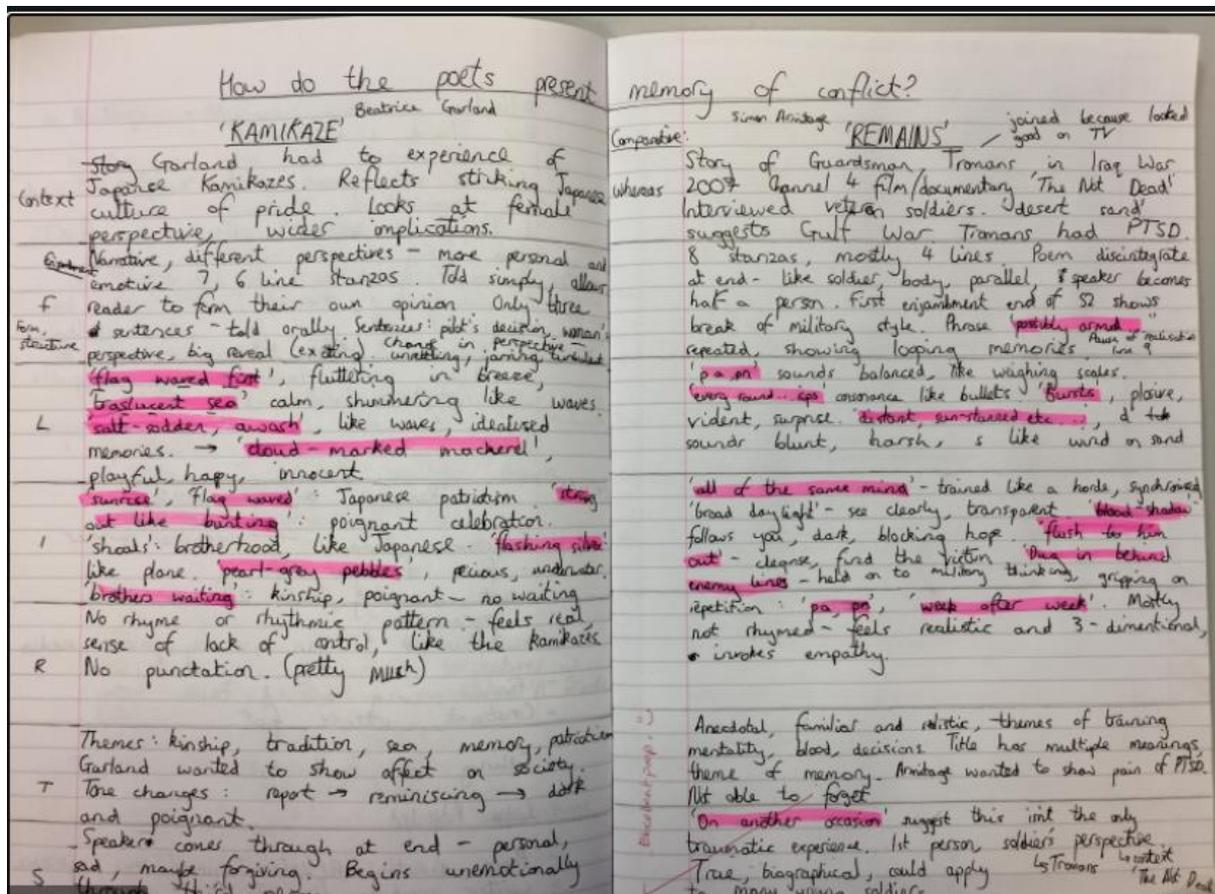
- How would you answer the question?
- What evidence would you use?
- What order would you put your points in?
- How would you introduce the reader to your argument (ideas)?
- How would you end the essay?

Question types:

How is the character of \_\_\_\_\_ presented in the novel/play?

How is the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ presented in the poem/novel?

“\_\_\_\_\_ is a weak character who deserves his fate” How far do you agree?



5. **Create a presentation** on a key character or theme or poem.

Plan to give this presentation to a family member or a friend who has never read the text before.

- What do they absolutely need to know – what do you think is *most important* about the text and why?
- Ask them to write down questions for you to answer at the end of the presentation!

## 6. Modify to 'real life'

- Use everyday texts to 'put language under the microscope'. This could be the design and language of a cereal box at breakfast time, an advert on a billboard you pass, a charity letter that comes through the letter box, an online blog you read along with the adverts floating down the side of it! Choose words or phrases from any of these texts and ask yourself: How does the writer use language to...(sell/persuade/donate/create a sense of fear etc?)
- Use photos or images you come across as stimulus for descriptive writing – you could even share these with a friend and then swap your writing to explore your different interpretations of the same image
- For narrative writing, look around for titles, headlines, captions etc. and use these to kickstart a story or introduction to a character
- Write 'for real' too! English Language Paper 2 is all about writing for a real purpose – why not draft an email to complain about something that bothers you? Or submit a piece of writing to a real competition? Perhaps even start your own blog on a topic/subject you love?
- 'Literature TV'! As you are watching anything on television, think of ways you could compare characters, events, settings and themes with any of your set texts. E.g. can you notice a character fall victim to greed or ambition...just like Macbeth? Is there a change of leader...a little like *Animal Farm*? Is anyone on the news talking about similar social issues to the Inspector?
- Poetry – poetry is lyrics without music! How could you compare some of the songs you listen to? What about the poetic/literary techniques an artist has used in the songs you like? If you can analyse and compare these, you can do the same to the poems!

Finally: don't forget to make use of the resources on Teams.

- Revision Resources for each topic
- Grammar and Written Accuracy
- Extension Libraries

And you can always ask your teachers! 😊

Some useful links:

- <https://www.youtube.com/c/MalmesburyEducation/videos>
- <https://quizlet.com/en-gb>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>
- <https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/>
- <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/learn/secondary-schools/playing-shakespeare-with-deutsche-bank/#resources-websites>
- [https://writetheworld.com/for\\_young\\_writers](https://writetheworld.com/for_young_writers)