

The English GCSEs



Overview

- Two GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.
- Each consists of two exams = four exams in total.
- No coursework.

The English GCSEs



English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%)

- The fiction exam.
- Reading: 1 fiction extract and 4 questions to assess ability to retrieve information, analyse writers' methods and evaluate.
- Writing: A choice from two tasks requiring creative (i.e. descriptive or narrative) writing.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%)

- The non-fiction exam.
- Reading: 2 non-fiction extracts. 4 questions to assess ability to retrieve information, synthesise and make inferences, analyse writers' methods and compare perspectives.
- Writing: A single task in which students write a piece for a specified form arguing their own viewpoints.

The English GCSEs



English Literature

Paper 1: Poetry (1A) and Modern Text (1C)

- A choice of two essay tasks on their modern text.
- A comparison between two of the poems in their anthology – one of which will be printed on the paper; the other of which they choose.

Paper 2: Shakespeare and Unseen Poetry

- An extract from their Shakespeare play and a question requiring students to explore the significance of a given topic in that extract and in the play as a whole.
- An essay on an unseen poem and a short response comparing the methods used in that poem with the methods used in a second unseen poem.

Opportunities to Practise

Assessment Schedule

- **Language Paper 1:** 17th January 2022*
- **Literature Paper 1 (Poetry anthology + Modern text):** 21st January 2022*

- **Language Paper 2:** March 2022*
- **Literature Paper 2:** In two parts:
 - **Shakespeare:** 15th or 16th December in English lessons – students have been told the act and theme of the question.
 - **Unseen poetry** March 2022*

*** These assessments could be used to inform Teacher Assessed Grades if exams are cancelled.**

Shakespeare Assessment

15th (B side) and 16th (A side) December



Romeo and Juliet: Your question will include:
-An extract from **Act One**
-The Theme of **conflict**

Macbeth: Your question will include:
- An extract from **Act One**
- The theme of **loyalty**

We are using this assessment to see where you all are with Shakespeare at the moment so that we know how best to focus the rest of our teaching later in the year. We are not intending to use this for Teacher Assessed Grades (if TAGs are needed).

English Language



1. Understanding the skills required by each question.

- The Methods Booklets on Teams take you through each question's requirements step-by-step.
- The targets from your mock exams will tell you specifically what YOU need to do to get more marks next time.

How people at home can help!

- Ask them if they have the Methods Booklets!
- Encourage them, in the early stages of revision, to do practice papers with the Methods Booklet alongside them.

English Language



2. Write engagingly and convincingly

- Writing is worth 50% of the GCSE.
- For top grades, you need to write a piece that doesn't feel like a standard GCSE level response.
- Creative openings, inventive structural features, varied and precise vocabulary, original imagery and clarity of expression.

How people at home can help!

- Encourage them to read as much of a range of texts as often as they can: “Students who succeed in their GCSE English Language exam are often those who have had the opportunity to read a wide range of non-fiction texts from different genres”.

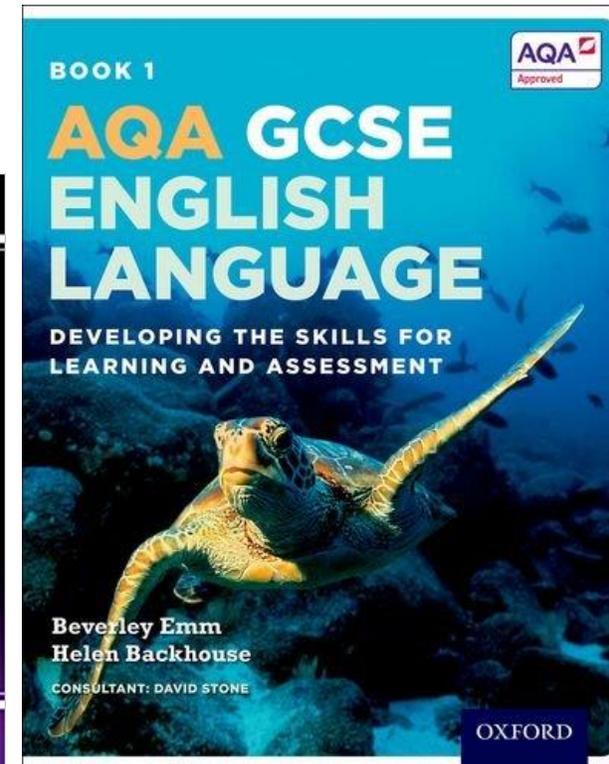
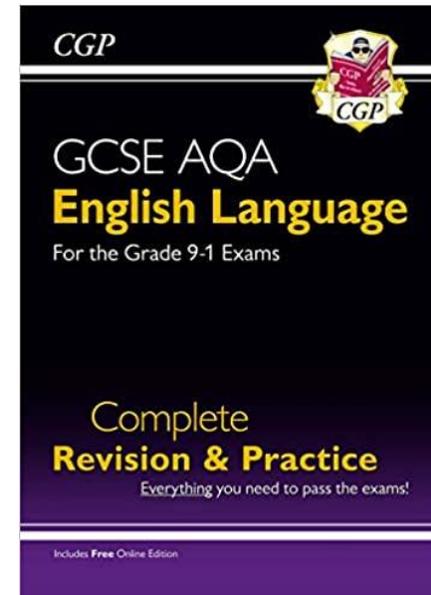
English Language



3. Where to find helpful resources

 **YouTube** Mr Bruff
Teaching and Learning Resources for Me

- AQA GCSE English Language Textbook
- CGP



English Literature



1. Textual Knowledge

- You need to know your texts really well so that, whatever the question, you can handle it.
- You should be able to make references to a range of relevant moments from within your texts in order to answer the question fully and convincingly.
- Character mind-maps and thematic mind-maps encourage you to re-visit your texts as a whole and synthesise details from different parts under a given heading, as you will need to do in the exam.

How people at home can help!

- Test them on their texts. Pick up their copies and read out lines – ask them about the significance of these lines.

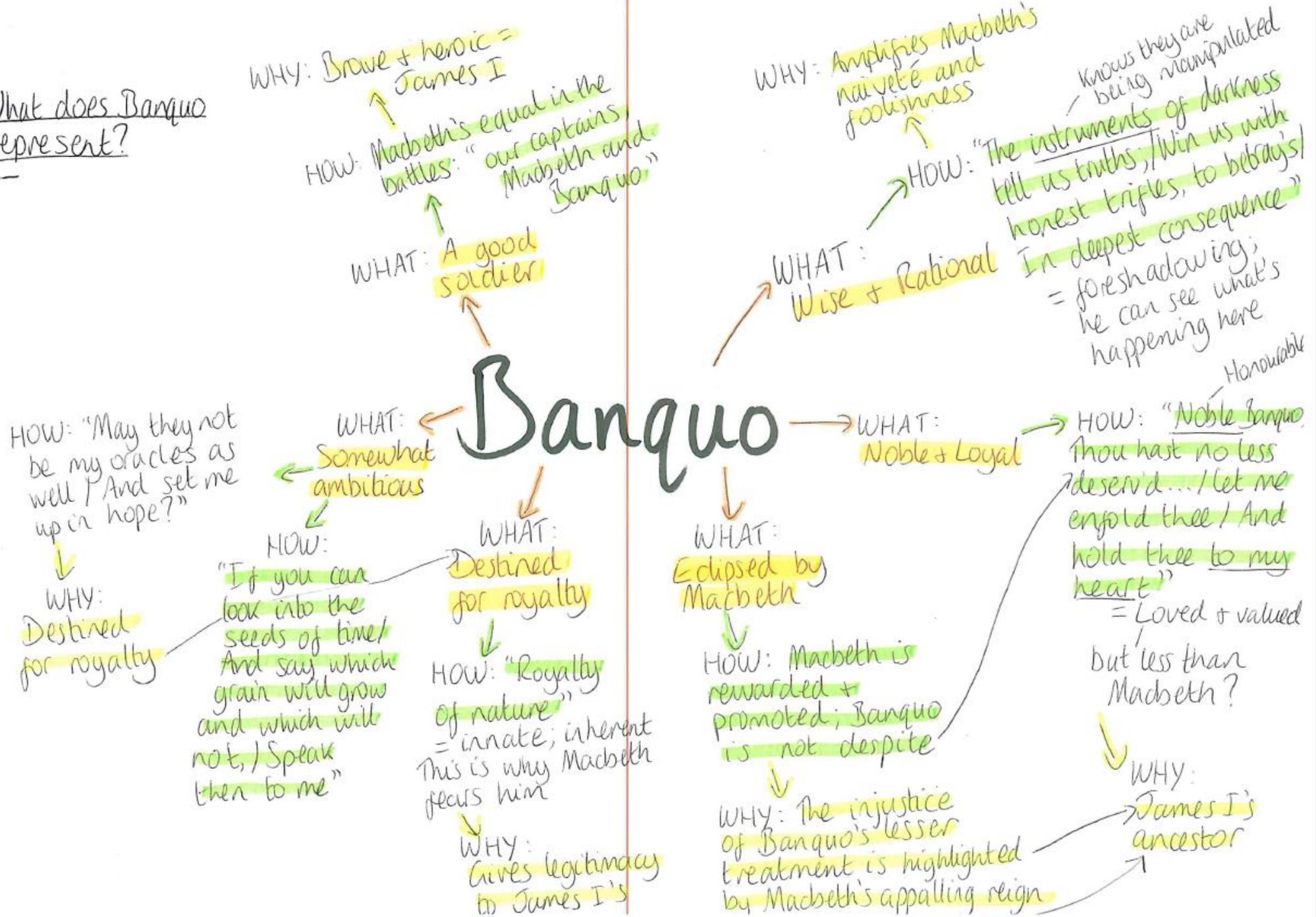
English Literature



2. Revising characters and themes

- Revising is the chance to pull together an interpretation of a character or theme across the whole text. Use **WHAT-HOW-WHY** to help you do this.
- **WHAT** does the writer suggest about the character/theme?
- **HOW** does the writer suggest this through the language, form and/or structure?
- **WHY** does the writer suggest this? What is their broader message?
- Once you've chosen the character/theme you want to revise, think of as many **WHAT-HOW-WHY** readings as you can.

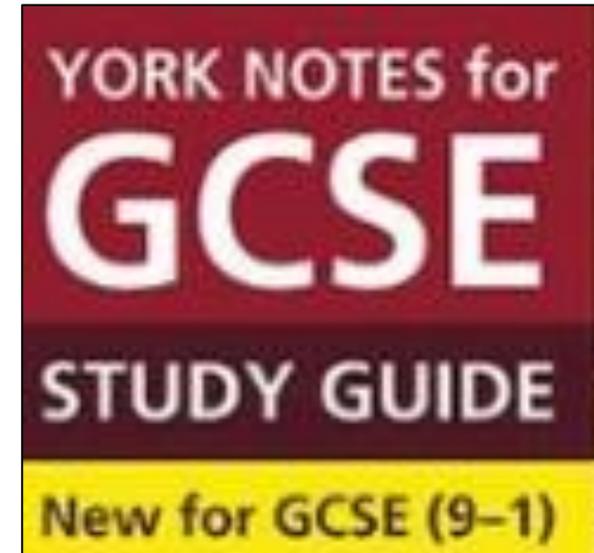
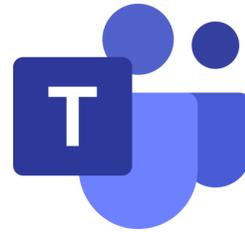
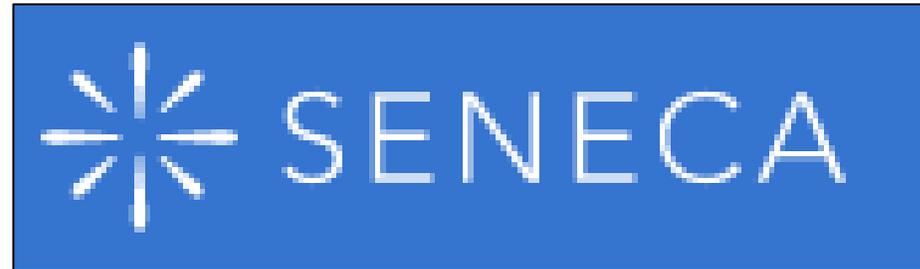
What does Banquo represent?



English Literature



3. Where to find helpful resources



Click Revision (for AIC)

Mr Bruff

Poetry: (Malmesbury's [Mrs K-B](#))