English Literature (AQA)

Revision guides include: any CPG or York Notes revision guides for the set texts

All papers are closed text. One poem will be provided for Paper 2B.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of GCSE)
Section A - a Shakespeare play (20%). Answer one question, based on a passage. Link to the rest of the text.
Section B - C19th text (20%). Answer one question, based on a passage. Link to the rest of the text.

Paper 2: 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of GCSE)
Section A - Modern text (20%). Answer one essay question, from a choice of two.
Section B - Conflict poetry (20%). Answer one question, comparing one poem (given) and another from the anthology.
Section C - Unseen poetry (20%). Answer one question on an unseen poem. Answer a second question comparing two unseen poems.

Revision for all parts of the GCSE:
- Learn quotations for each of your set texts - you will not have the texts in the examinations. You will need a minimum of 15 quotations for each text, linked to different themes and aspects of the text that you might want to discuss.
- Revise key literary techniques for poetry, prose and drama. Shakespeare has its own terminology to revise, including iambic pentameter and dramatic irony.
- Revise appropriate contextual information for each set text - you will need to refer to its importance in your essays.
- Practice annotation of small extracts - these will be provided in Paper 1A and Paper 1B.
- Revise linking small extracts to the rest of the text, as you will be required to do in Paper 1.
- Practise comparing the poems, based on different themes and questions for Paper 2B.
- Practise close annotation of unseen poetry for Paper 2C.
- Plan different essay ideas, revising key themes in each text.
- Consider alternative interpretations in your essays, using short quotations to support your ideas.
- Practise planning and writing essays in 45 minutes.
- Ensure that you are analysing quotations, rather than simply explaining their meanings.
- Ensure that you refer to the effect of structure in your essays, including juxtaposition, sentence length, and overall structure.