



How you can help your child prepare for the: **Language exams**

[Tuesday 4th June Paper 1 / Friday 7th June Paper 2]

- As the Language exams both test students' reading skills, it's a good idea for students to get into the habit of reading regularly – novels, short stories, newspapers, magazines, leaflets etc.

When reading non-fiction, students should be practising:

- Considering how writers create impressions/images
- Analysing persuasive techniques
- Comparing texts on similar topics
- Evaluating the effectiveness of texts

Encourage your son/daughter to talk about what they're reading.

- Encourage your son/daughter to practise their functional writing skills in preparation for Unit 2. They should be familiar with how to write reviews, letters, reports, speeches, leaflets and articles. By reading plenty of these in advance of their exam, they'll stand a better chance of getting it right on the day.
- Use the Internet with your son/daughter to access the revision resources online. *BBC Bitesize, Sparknotes & Mr Bruff on YouTube.*

THE ENGLISH BLOG - <https://englishatwmat.wordpress.com/>

Quick things to do

1. Using a recent newspaper article or one from a news website (i.e. *bbc.co.uk*) ask students to highlight the main points of the story. This can also be done with any materials that come through the door – junk mail is really good for this too.
2. Get them to pick out a key phrase from the article and explain to you why they have chosen it – ensure they say more than "Because it's good".
3. Ask them to tell you how they would set out a letter – perhaps give them a letter that has been sent to you and see if they can judge what phrases are appropriate.
4. Give them 20 minutes to write a review (this 20 minute test can be used for leaflets, speeches, etc). Check they have used the basics – paragraphs, sentences, an interesting range of words etc.

How you can help your son/daughter prepare for the: **Literature exams**

[Wednesday 15th May Paper 1 / Thursday 23rd May Paper 2]

- Students would benefit from having their own copies of the set texts so that they can annotate and re-read them before their exam. These can be bought online together with revision guides.
- Talk to your son/daughter about the texts they've studied. In the exam, they'll be expected to write in detail about the following:
 - the storyline/structure, the characters, the themes, the social/historical context, the languageStudents often find it beneficial to talk through their ideas.
- Encourage your son/daughter to create a set of detailed revision notes.
- Help your son/daughter to create a list of key quotations from the novel and play that they've studied. They should be able to explain the significance of each quotation.
- Access the revision materials available online: students will be provided with website links to access revision materials including past exam paper questions to practise.

Quick things to do

1. Ask students to tell you the story of each text that they have studied and get them to jot down the main events. Ask them to write down the characters in each text and get them to tell you about each one.
2. Place 10 key quotations from each text on flash cards – on the back they can write down who said them and what themes they link with.
3. Using the flash cards, test them on the quotations – can they remember them off by heart? Can they tell you why that quotation is important?
4. Using provided past exam questions, get them to spend 10 minutes planning their answer and jotting down the quotations that they will use. This is really useful for them to get used to thinking on their feet and planning the answers.