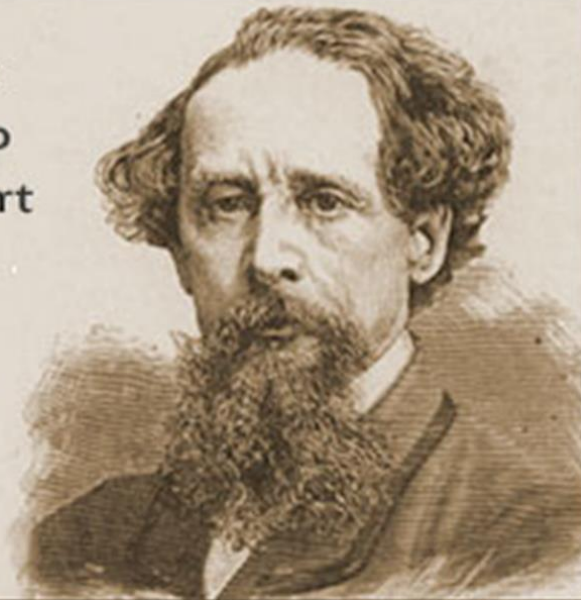


Raising achievement in English

The most important
thing in life is to stop
saying 'I wish' and start
saying 'I will.'

CHARLES DICKENS



In ten minutes...

- ▶ The structure of English GCSEs
- ▶ How to do well in one or both GCSEs
- ▶ How you can help?

The Structure of English GCSEs

- ▶ Everyone does two **GCSEs**
- ▶ **AQA English Language and Literature**
- ▶ Both courses are terminally assessed by exams.



Format of English GCSEs

| | English Language | English Literature | |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| Assessment | Two exams 50% Writing | Two examinations | |
| | 50% Reading | Paper 1– 40% | Paper 2– 60% |
| Texts and content | All texts unseen: •Pre-20 th Century literary non-fiction •Modern non-fiction •A piece of fiction (20 th Century+) •2 pieces of writing– one creative; one viewpoint | Shakespeare • <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> | Modern play: • <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</i> (play script)– Simon Stephens |
| | | 19th Century novels: • Charles Dickens <i>A Christmas Carol</i> | |

How to do well at English GCSE 1

- ▶ Analyse
- ▶ Evaluate
- ▶ Make links to social and historical context
- ▶ Compare
- ▶ Summarise
- ▶ Identify relevant information
- ▶ Infer

How to do well at English GCSE 1

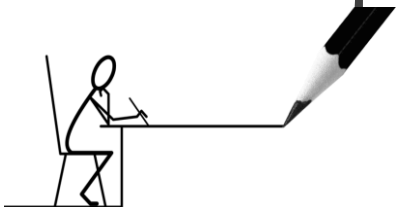
- ▶ Be an independent thinker and decision maker.
- ▶ Read widely and have knowledge of history and culture.
- ▶ Have a developed vocabulary.
- ▶ Know the English Literature texts well.

How to do well at English GCSE 2

- ▶ Analyse texts closely and in detail.
- ▶ Use time wisely in exams– work well under pressure.
- ▶ Build up revision over time.
- ▶ Write and spell accurately and confidently
- ▶ Work hard and invest effort on deficits.

How can you help?

- Get copies of the set texts– read them; discuss the ideas and how they are presented.
- Focus on Language– Literature looks scary but Language is equally challenging as it requires more independence in the exam.
- If you get study guides ensure they are not used passively– check activity is varied.
- Supervise timed and silent exam practice



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