

Have you started revising yet?

- Work in 30-minute bursts.
- Take 5 minute breaks in between.
- Change the topic often.
- Make notes as diagrams - it helps you remember.

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10 Tricky Spellings!

scene
author
rhyme
rhythm
playwright

simile
theatre
soliloquy
character
onomatopoeia



Kenton School



EngLish

TEST

Top Tips!

1 Put it in paragraphs (//)
The easiest thing to get your score up is to remember to use paragraphs. You'd be very surprised how many people forget because of exam nerves! If you are aiming for A levels, you *have* to do this. Start a new paragraph when you change the topic, time or viewpoint. If you forget, go back and put in a paragraph punctuation mark (//). You will still get the credit.

2 Justify your answers with evidence
Nearly everyone manages to give an opinion, but do you remember to back it up with evidence? Double your marks in the reading paper by giving evidence for each of your points.

- Mention an example or incident.
- Point out some hints or clues in the passage.
- Quote a few words as evidence.

3 Pick out revealing words and phrases
Pick up points by pinpointing telling words and phrases. Pick out the words that give a strong impression, for example:

The landlady is presented as a witchlike creature with her 'pale pinched cheeks', 'hands like claws' and 'grasping her broom'.

A good way to find the words is to hunt them down with a **highlighter pen**.



4 Find a few good words to sum up what you think at the end of each response

If you're asked about a character, think of the best word you can to sum him or her up. Then think of some other words that mean the same sort of thing:

witchlike - sinister, malign, brooding, malevolent, evil, inhuman

Use them to sum up:

Mia is a sinister and inhuman character, with an air of brooding evil.

What's good about this is that you put your finger on just what she is like.

5 The big DON'T DO IT!

The biggest of all the big DON'T DOs is:

Don't just say what happened!

It will bore the pants off the examiner.

You can safely assume that the examiner has heard the story once and doesn't want to hear it again. The idea is to show off how well you understand the way the writer worked his or her magic.

6 Re-read the passage with a pen in your hand

1. Read the passage quickly to get the gist.
2. Read the question(s).
3. Pick up your pen and

start re-reading.

4. As you read, highlight any relevant bits, such as key words in the question and the text and make a special mark against words you might be able to quote.

This saves a lot of time when you come to write your answer. It also helps you to look closely and pay attention.

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7 Invest 5 minutes in preparing your writing

- Take 1 minute to think of some dazzling key words to use.
- Take 3 minutes to plan your ideas in a diagram such as a flow chart or spider diagram.



8 Vary your sentences

Here's how. Instead of starting in the same old way with the noun and then saying what happened, try starting with:

- a preposition, for example: **In the** lounge, Lisa was...
 - a verb, for example: **Feeling sleepy**, Matt lay down and...
 - an adverb, for example: **Instantly**, the cats jumped onto...
 - an adjective, for example: **Cold and weary**, the climbers pitched into...
- This extends your sentences and makes them sound more sophisticated.

Did you know...? The most common way for novelists to start a sentence is with a phrase that says where the action begins.

- Take 1 minute to think up some paragraph starters to structure your writing.

9 Weed out your weaknesses

So you've tried and tried but you still forget to put in paragraphs, you mix up *there* and *their*, and you can't tell your *-ables* from your *-ibles*. Here's what to do.

1. Make up a way of remembering your own worst habits.
2. Write the things to check at the top of your answer booklet in pencil.
3. At the end, go back and check for those things in the last five minutes.

10 Zap yourself with the video

Hire the video and watch those scenes from Shakespeare...again...and again... Keep the text by you and read along. It really helps to be familiar with the language and have a grasp on what's going on.

