

AQA English Literature Paper 1 Revision List: Y11 GCSE Students

General Overview

- **Paper 1 Structure:** Two sections
 1. **Section A:** Shakespeare (Macbeth)
 2. **Section B:** 19th-Century Novel (A Christmas Carol)
 - **Timing:** 1 hour 45 minutes in total.
 - Spend approximately **55 minutes on Section A** and **50 minutes on Section B**.
 - **Marks:** Both sections are worth **30 marks** plus **4 marks** for SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar).
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Section A: Macbeth

Key Areas to Revise

1. **Plot and Key Scenes**
 - Act 1, Scene 3: The witches' prophecies.
 - Act 1, Scene 7: Macbeth's internal conflict about killing Duncan.
 - Act 2, Scene 2: The murder of Duncan.
 - Act 3, Scene 1: Banquo's murder plot.
 - Act 4, Scene 1: The witches and the apparitions.
 - Act 5, Scene 1: Lady Macbeth's guilt (sleepwalking scene).
 - Act 5, Scene 8: Macbeth's downfall and death.
2. **Characters**
 - Macbeth: His ambition, moral conflict, and eventual downfall.
 - Lady Macbeth: Manipulation, guilt, and descent into madness.
 - The Witches: Role in driving the plot and themes of fate vs. free will.
 - Banquo: His morality and role as a foil to Macbeth.
 - Duncan: Symbol of rightful kingship.
 - Macduff: Justice and revenge.
 - Malcolm: Restorer of order.
3. **Themes**
 - Ambition and Power
 - Guilt and Conscience
 - The Supernatural
 - Fate vs. Free Will

- Kingship and Tyranny
- Gender Roles and Masculinity
- 4. **Key Quotations**
 - "Fair is foul, and foul is fair" – Witches.
 - "Is this a dagger which I see before me?" – Macbeth.
 - "Out, damned spot!" – Lady Macbeth.
 - "Life's but a walking shadow..." – Macbeth.
 - "All hail, Macbeth! Hail to thee, Thane of Glamis! / ...Thane of Cawdor! / ...King hereafter!" – Witches.

Section B: A Christmas Carol

Key Areas to Revise

1. Plot and Key Chapters

- **Stave 1:** Introduction to Scrooge, Marley's warning.
- **Stave 2:** Ghost of Christmas Past, Scrooge's childhood and lost love.
- **Stave 3:** Ghost of Christmas Present, Christmas celebrations and the Cratchit family.
- **Stave 4:** Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Scrooge's potential future, Tiny Tim's death, and his own neglected grave.
- **Stave 5:** Scrooge's redemption, newfound generosity, and joy.

2. Characters

- **Ebenezer Scrooge:** Transformation from miserly and cold-hearted to compassionate and generous.
- **Jacob Marley**:** Warns Scrooge about his fate and represents guilt and regret.
- **The Ghosts:**
 - Christmas Past: Shows the impact of Scrooge's past decisions.
 - Christmas Present: Highlights social inequality and joy.
 - Christmas Yet to Come: Reveals Scrooge's grim future if he does not change.
- **The Cratchit Family:** Represent warmth, kindness, and the struggles of the poor.
- **Tiny Tim:** Symbol of innocence hope, and the consequences of neglecting the vulnerable.
- **Fred:** Scrooge's nephew, represents the joy and generosity of Christmas spirit.

3. Themes

- **Redemption and Transformation:** Scrooge's journey to becoming a better person.

- **Christmas Spirit:** Generosity, kindness, and goodwill.
- **Social Responsibility:** Critique of societal neglect of the poor.
- **Poverty and Wealth:** Contrasts between rich and poor, and the obligations of wealth.
- **Family and Community:** Importance of connection and compassion.

4. Key Quotations

- "Bah! Humbug!" – Scrooge's initial disdain for Christmas.
- "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?" – Scrooge's lack of empathy.
- "God bless us, every one!" – Tiny Tim's hopeful spirit.
- "I wear the chain I forged in life." – Marley's warning.
- "A solitary child, by his friends, is left there still." – Ghost of Christmas Past about young Scrooge.
- "If these shadows remain unaltered by the Future, the child will die." – Ghost of Christmas Present about Tiny Tim.
- "I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – Scrooge's resolution.

5. Context

- Victorian society: Wealth inequality, workhouses, and child labor.
- Dickens' views: Advocacy for social reform and compassion the poor.
- Christmas traditions: Popularized and celebrated through the novella.
- Influence of religion and morality: Ideas of sin, redemption, and the Christian virtues of charity and goodwill.

Revision Tips

- Memorize key quotes and match them to themes, characters, or context.
- Practice writing essays under timed conditions.
- Plan answers using the **PETAL** (Point, Evidence, Technique, Analysis, Link)
- Know key differences between Staves for sequencing questions.
- Annotate extracts for language, form, and structure to prepare for unseen questions.