

# GCSE English



**PARENTS' REVISION EVENING  
TUESDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2010**

# The course



- AQA GCSE English covers all statutory elements of this key area of curriculum. Most students sit the dual award and receive 2 GCSEs – receiving a qualification in English Literature. Students sat their Literature exam this morning.
- GCSE English is sat in 2 examination papers (8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June). Each exam paper is worth 30% each. Students have already received 40% of their mark through centre assessed components (coursework).

# Paper 1 Section A



- Students are given 2/ 3 texts to read and answer questions. This could be anything from a newspaper article, advert, webpage etc.
- Skills being assessed: using quotes as evidence
- Comparisons, understanding fact and opinion, presentational devices, linguistic devices.
- Ways to revise: read a range of newspapers at home: highlight the techniques, facts, opinions etc.
- Practise exam papers at home: available from AQA website.
- Look at number of marks and plan out response
- Use mnemonics to remember techniques: AFORRESTH etc.

# Paper 1 Section B



- Students are given a choice of 4 questions and must answer one.
- Writing to persuade and argue are the best ways to achieve highest grades for most students.
- Students are being assessed on: effective use of paragraphs, use of vocabulary, matching style and tone to the reader, accuracy of spelling and punctuation.
- Ways to revise: memorise a list of connective words and phrases, spellings: look, cover, write, check
- Use AFORRESTH techniques in exam answers
- Choose past answers from AQA website and redraft and improve them

# Paper 2 Section A



- Students are given 2 questions to choose from and must write a comparison of 2 poems from the Anthology.
- All students have been issued with an Anthology.
- Students are being assessed on: appreciation of writer's thoughts and feelings, using evidence, comparisons and analysis of writer's techniques.
- Ways to revise: make revision cards on each poem and test yourself; memorise techniques and the effects they have; list of connective words and phrases. Look at the past exam answers on AQA website.
- Get a blank copy of each of the poems and annotate them from memory.

# Paper 2 Section B



- Students are given a choice of 4 questions.
- Writing to Describe tends to be most popular, some students prefer writing to Inform.
- Students are being assessed on: effective use of paragraphs, use of vocabulary, matching style and tone to the reader, accuracy of spelling and punctuation.
- Ways to revise: write a description of a variety of people, places and things using all 5 senses, use a thesaurus to develop vocabulary and learn spellings from the exam. Read descriptions of people and places in novels and write your own description in that style etc.