

English Language and Literature Revision

January Mock Preparation

Blood Brothers

Unseen Poetry

Paper 2 – Question 5 – Writing with a Viewpoint

Revision Plan – Revision Lists – Sample Questions

English Revision List and Example Plan

You should be planning to spend productive time revising over the course of the next few weeks. It is important that you organise yourself and focus your revision on topics/skills that will benefit you. As a department, we understand that you have other revision priorities (and hobbies to enjoy!) so to make the most of all the time you have, prepare bite size chunks of revision to do frequently. We recommend that you should chunk your revision into 20-30 minute activities. If you are struggling to prioritise your time, you may want to consider a programme as per the table below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
29/11/2021	Century	Timeline of relationship between Eddie and Mickey		Blood Brothers GCSE Pod (chosen from revision list) https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10266/62834		Blood Brothers Quotation lists – Mickey linked to themes	
06/12/2021	Century	Essay plan - Blood Brothers		Blood Brothers GCSE Pod (chosen from revision list) https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10266/62834		Blood Brothers Quotation lists – Eddie linked to themes	
13/12/2021	Century	Write essay - Blood Brothers		Blood Brothers GCSE Pod (chosen from revision list) https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10266/62834		Blood Brothers Quotation lists – Linda linked to themes	
20/12/2021	Century	Essay plan - Blood Brothers	Write essay - Blood Brothers	Unseen Poetry annotations			
27/12/2021			Unseen Poetry annotations	Blood Brothers GCSE Pod (chosen from revision list) https://members.gcsepod.com/shared/podcasts/title/10266/62834	Paper 2 Q5		
03/01/2022	Century	Essay plan - Blood Brothers		Paper 2 Q5		Writing sample essay questions to revise 'Blood Brothers'	

10/01/2022	Century	Unseen poetry annotations		Unseen poetry annotations		Paper 2 Q5	
17/01/2022	Century	Paper 2 Q5					

Revision strategies

- Check your understanding of key words. If you are not sure what some of the words above mean, you need to find out by researching, reviewing our revision materials, or checking with your teacher.
- Timed responses – you should set a timer and aim to complete the responses in timed conditions. Do not worry if you struggle to do it in time at first; measure your progress by how much more you are able to complete in the set period every time.
- Read widely for pleasure – If you read for pleasure, you will expose yourself to different texts and vocabulary that you may be able to use in your own writing. This exposure to vocabulary helps you to decipher vocabulary that might be unfamiliar in the examination texts.
- Revision Videos – we have put together materials available for you to support your revision at home. Work through the activities and the mock paper. Make use of the resources of GCSE POD as the revision videos provide excellent revision content.
- Century – complete your nuggets and complete extra nuggets in spare moments.

Revision List – Blood Brothers

During this examination, we will be formally assessing you on your understanding of 'Blood Brothers'.

You will be given two questions and you should choose one that you would like to answer. There is no supporting extract and so it is important that you have secure understanding of the play, and quotations to draw on. You are encouraged to focus your revision on the following areas:

- Overall plot confidence of the play
- Re-read / watch performance of the play <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP1j1B1TtNU>
- Themes: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-literature-drama-gcse-making-a-scene-blood-brothers-main-themes/zn6kjhv>
- Theme: social class, family, nature versus nurture, coming of age, identity, gender
- Understanding of the characters and their relationships in the play.
- A deep understanding of the characters Mickey, Eddie and Linda:
 - Quotations of what they say that illuminate key themes
 - Quotations from what others say that illuminate key themes
 - Stage directions that illuminate ideas about them
 - An understanding of how the characters change as the play develops
 - An understanding of the relationships between the three characters, and the other characters in the play

Blood Brothers – Sample revision questions:

1. How does Russell use Edward and Mickey to present ideas about social class?
2. How does Russell use Mrs Johnstone and Linda to present ideas about gender?
3. Explore how nature and nurture is presented in the play, 'Blood Brothers'.

Revision List – Paper 2 Writing

As a skills-based assessment, establish – through revision – how secure you are will the following:

- Can you effectively use a planning tool to help you organise your ideas before you start?
- Can you write clearly and imaginatively?
- Can you adapt your tone and style to suit your audience and purpose?
- Can you organise your writing with a clear structure?
- Can you use different sentence structures effectively?
- Can you use a varied and impressive vocabulary?
- Can you achieve a voice – a viewpoint – in your own work?
- Can you write accurately, paying attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar?

Paper 2 Writing – Sample Questions

“Heavy users of social media are less happy and experience more problems in their life.”

Write a letter to a local newspaper, exploring your viewpoint.

“We live in a ‘throwaway society’ where people have forgotten the value of the things they have.” Write an article for your school newspaper, stating whether or not you think this is true.

“It has never been easy being a teenager, but young people today face more challenges than they have ever done before.” Write a speech for your school assembly, stating whether or not you agree with this view.

Revision List – Unseen Poetry

This is a skills-based assessment of your ability to engage with a poem that you have not seen before. How secure are you to:

- Engage with the question, identifying the question focus and what you're analysing
- Read for a purpose with the question focus in your mind
- Identify the main ideas of the poem
- Identify the tone (mood) of the poem
- Select key words and phrases
- Explore how the writer uses language and structure to convey ideas
- Name methods
- Plan and write an extended response

Key terminology

Language	Structure	Form
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Simile○ Metaphor○ Alliteration○ Onomatopoeia○ Assonance○ Imagery○ Hyperbole○ Oxymoron○ Personification○ Symbolism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Repetition○ Stanzas○ Rhyme Scheme (irregular, regular?)○ Rhythm○ Beat○ Iambic Pentameter○ Caesura○ Enjambment○ Rhyming Couplet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ballad○ Sonnet○ Free Verse○ Lyrical○ Narrative○ Epitaph

Unseen Poetry – Sample Questions

Still I Rise

You may write me down in history
With your bitter, twisted lies,
You may trod me in the very dirt
But still, like dust, I'll rise.

Does my sassiness upset you?
Why are you beset with gloom?
'Cause I walk like I've got oil wells
Pumping in my living room.

Just like moons and like suns,
With the certainty of tides,
Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise.

Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?

Does my haughtiness offend you?
Don't you take it awful hard
'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines
Diggin' in my own backyard.

You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.

Does my sexiness upset you?
Does it come as a surprise
That I dance like I've got diamonds
At the meeting of my thighs?

Out of the huts of history's shame

I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tide.

Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise.

Maya Angelou

In 'Still I Rise,' how does the poet present ideas about resilience?

[24 marks]

Flag by John Agard

FLAG

What's that fluttering in a breeze?

Its just a piece of cloth
that brings a nation to its knees.

What's that unfurling from a pole?

It's just a piece of cloth
that makes the guts of men grow bold.

What's that rising over a tent?

It's just a piece of cloth
that dares the coward to relent.

What's that flying across a field?

It's just a piece of cloth
that will outlive the blood you bleed.

How can I possess such a cloth?

Just ask for a flag my friend.
Then blind your conscience to the end.

Compare how the writers of 'Still I Rise' and 'Flag' convey ideas about power.

(8 Marks)

First they came...

First they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me

Unknown

2	7	.	1
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In 'First they came,' how does the poet present their ideas about injustice?

[24 marks]

Not My Business

They picked Akanni up one morning
Beat him soft like clay
And stuffed him down the belly
Of a waiting jeep.

What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

They came one night
Booted the whole house awake
And dragged Danladi out,
Then off to a lengthy absence.

What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

Chinwe went to work one day
Only to find her job was gone:
No query, no warning, no probe –
Just one neat sack for a stainless record.

What business of mine is it
So long they don't take the yam
From my savouring mouth?

And then one evening
As I sat down to eat my yam
A knock on the door froze my hungry hand.

The jeep was waiting on my bewildered lawn

Waiting, waiting in its usual silence.

Niyi Osundare

Compare how the writers of 'First they Came' and 'Not my Business' present ideas about injustice. (8 marks)

The Rear-Guard

(Hindenburg Line, April 1917)

Groping along the tunnel, step by step,
He winked his prying torch with patching glare
From side to side, and sniffed the unwholesome air.

Tins, boxes, bottles, shapes too vague to know,
A mirror smashed, the mattress from a bed;
And he, exploring fifty feet below
The rosy gloom of battle overhead.

Tripping, he grabbed the wall; saw someone lie
Humped at his feet, half-hidden by a rug,
And stooped to give the sleeper's arm a tug.
'I'm looking for headquarters.' No reply.
'God blast your neck!' (For days he'd had no sleep.)
'Get up and guide me through this stinking place.'

Savage, he kicked a soft, unanswering heap,
And flashed his beam across the livid* face
Terribly glaring up, whose eyes yet wore
Agony dying hard ten days before;
And fists of fingers clutched a blackening wound.

Alone he staggered on until he found
Dawn's ghost that filtered down a shafted stair
To the dazed, muttering creatures underground
Who hear the boom of shells in muffled sound.

At last, with sweat of horror in his hair,
He climbed through darkness to the twilight air,
Unloading hell behind him step by step.

Siegfried Sassoon

2	7	.	1
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In 'The Rear-Guard,' how does the poet present ideas about war?

[24 marks]

War Photographer by Carol Ann Duffy

In his dark room he is finally alone
with spools of suffering set out in ordered rows.
The only light is red and softly glows,
as though this were a church and he
a priest preparing to intone a Mass.
Belfast. Beirut. Phnom Penh. All flesh is grass.

He has a job to do. Solutions slop in trays
beneath his hands, which did not tremble then
though seem to now. Rural England. Home again
to ordinary pain which simple weather can dispel,
to fields which don't explode beneath the feet
of running children in a nightmare heat.

Something is happening. A stranger's features
faintly start to twist before his eyes,
a half-formed ghost. He remembers the cries
of this man's wife, how he sought approval
without words to do what someone must
and how the blood stained into foreign dust.

A hundred agonies in black and white
from which his editor will pick out five or six
for Sunday's supplement. The reader's eyeballs prick
with tears between the bath and pre-lunch beers.
From the aeroplane he stares impassively at where
he earns his living and they do not care.

Compare how the writers of 'Rear Guard' and 'War Photographer' present experiences of war. (8 marks)