



How can I study for English?

English Specific Study Advice

- The BBC have produced excellent resources for both National 5 and Higher at www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize. They also have a useful revision app for iPhone and Android, with additional revision materials.
- You can find English past papers for free at www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers.
- Read comment and opinion articles from broadsheet newspapers (e.g. www.theguardian.com/commentisfree) to help you prepare for RUAE (close reading). Read the article, summarise its main points and comment on features of language such as word choice, imagery, sentence structure and tone.
- Several National 5 and Higher books can be found both online and in local bookshops, as well as in the school library. Textbooks like “Practice Papers” and “Specimen Question Papers” provide exam papers to work through and can be supported by books like “How to Pass” and the “Success Guide”.
- Read a book! Personal reading is proven to improve vocabulary and increase the chances of success in the exam.

General Study Advice

- You should keep a track of your strengths and the areas you need to work on. Make sure you note down your teacher’s individual and whole class feedback.
- Do more of what you’re already doing in class: timed exam practice, making notes on your texts, planning essays etc.
- Condense your notes into a more manageable format: use highlighters, create mind maps, make posters and use post-it notes.
- Collaborate with your friends on shared documents via OneDrive. You could use this to create a shared set of notes on your class texts.
- Set up a study group with pupils who are working at the same level. This will motivate you and you will benefit from the range of strengths in the group. Share your revision materials and strategies in person or online.
- Create a weekly or monthly study plan. Make sure you give attention to each part of the course “little and often”: study in a regular pattern but only for short bursts of time. For example, fifteen minutes of literature twice a week until the exam is better than hours and hours in the couple of days before the exam.