AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE - GRADE 7+ MASTERY

Achieving top grades through advanced literary skills



WELCOME YEAR 11 - AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Focus on Key Texts

The course covers major texts like An Inspector Calls, The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, and The Merchant of Venice.

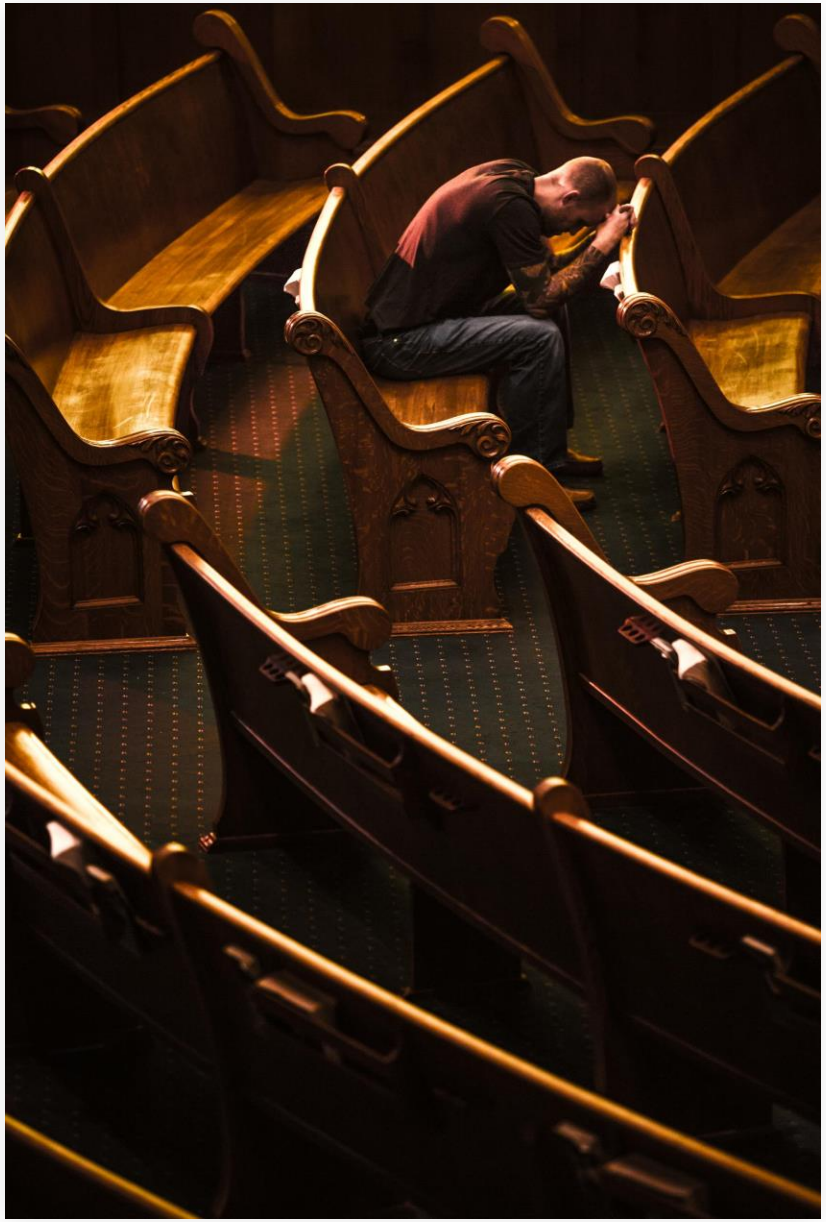
Exam Preparation Strategies

Learn exam techniques and analytical approaches.

Themes and Analysis

Explore major themes and develop skills in analyzing Power and Conflict Poetry and Unseen Poetry effectively.

CORE TEXTS



THE MERCHANT OF VENICE

Themes of Justice and Mercy

The play explores justice and mercy, highlighting moral dilemmas through the courtroom scene.

Complex Character Motivations

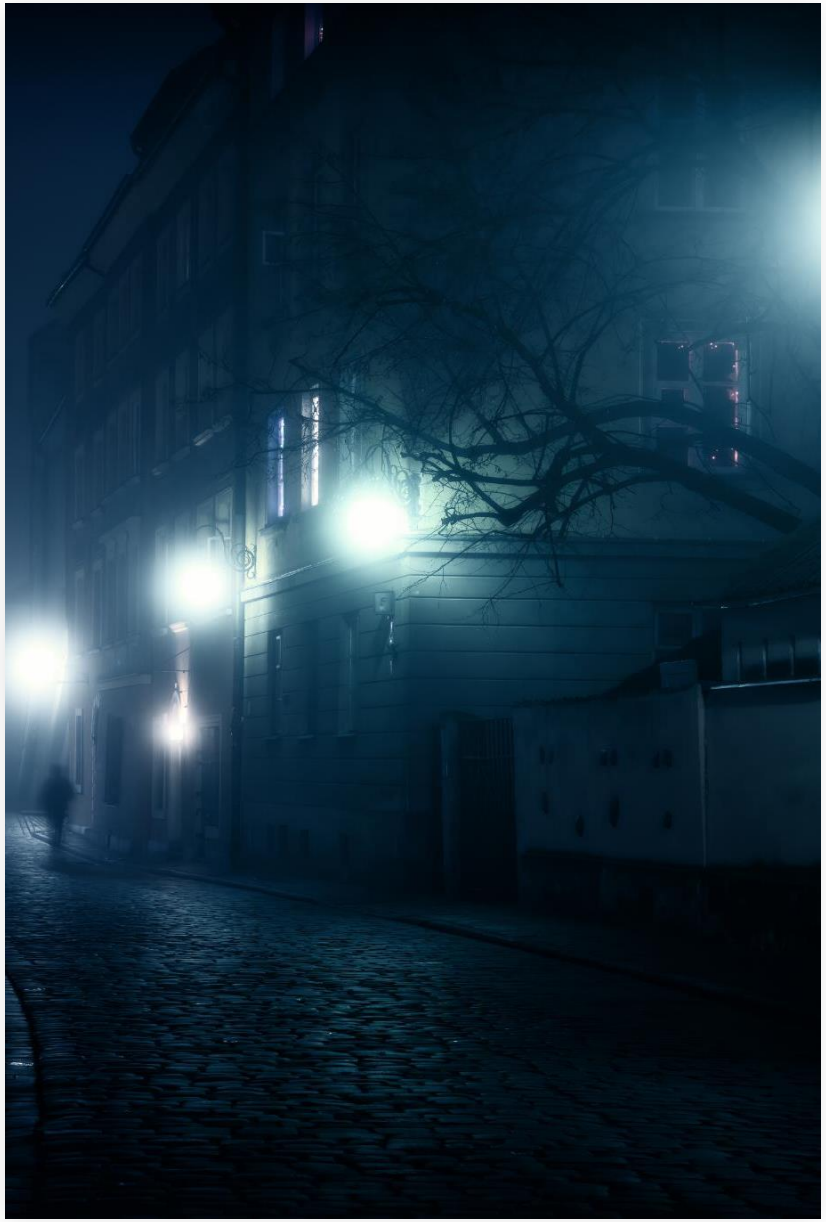
Focus on characters like Shylock and Portia to understand conflict and social challenges.

Language and Literary Devices

Analyse Shakespeare's language, rhetorical devices, and structure to uncover deeper meanings.

Historical and Cultural Context

Understand Elizabethan attitudes towards religion and commerce to enrich interpretation.



DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE

Duality of Man

The novella explores the conflicting nature of good and evil within a single individual.

Science vs Religion

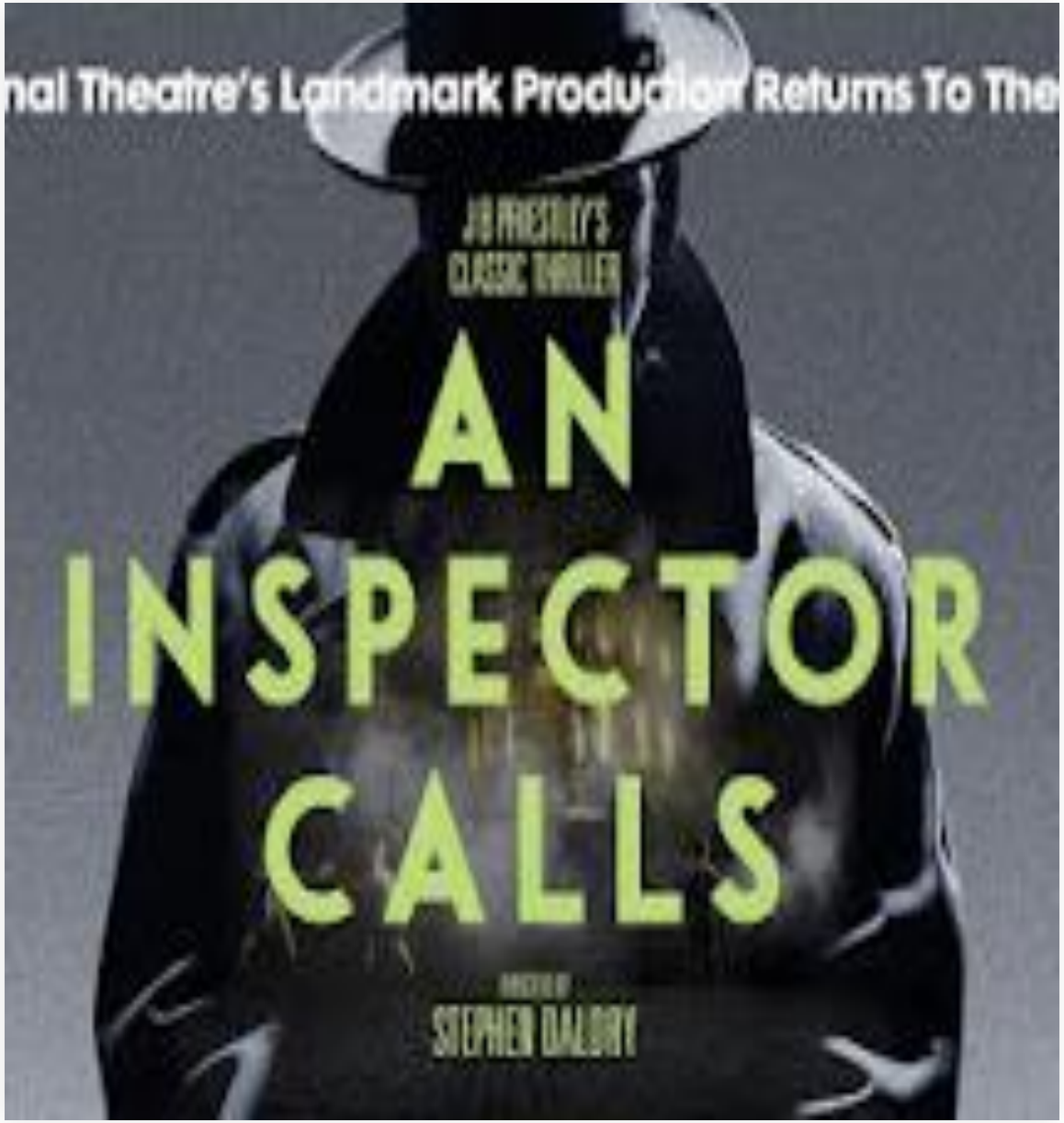
The story highlights tensions between scientific progress and religious morality in Victorian society.

Narrative Techniques

Stevenson uses narrative structure, setting, and characterisation to build suspense and mystery throughout the novella.

Symbolism and Context

Hyde's appearance and Jekyll's struggle symbolize Victorian anxieties about morality and scientific advancement.



AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Themes and Playwright's Intentions

The play explores social responsibility, class, gender, and morality through character development and stage directions.

Inspector as Socialist Voice

The Inspector acts as the mouthpiece for Priestley's socialist views, driving the interrogation and moral questioning.

Structural and Dramatic Techniques

The cyclical structure and dramatic irony reinforce themes of accountability and create tension throughout the play.



POWER AND CONFLICT POETRY

Themes in Poetry

Power and Conflict poetry explores war effects, nature's power, identity, and memory through vivid themes.

Poetic Techniques

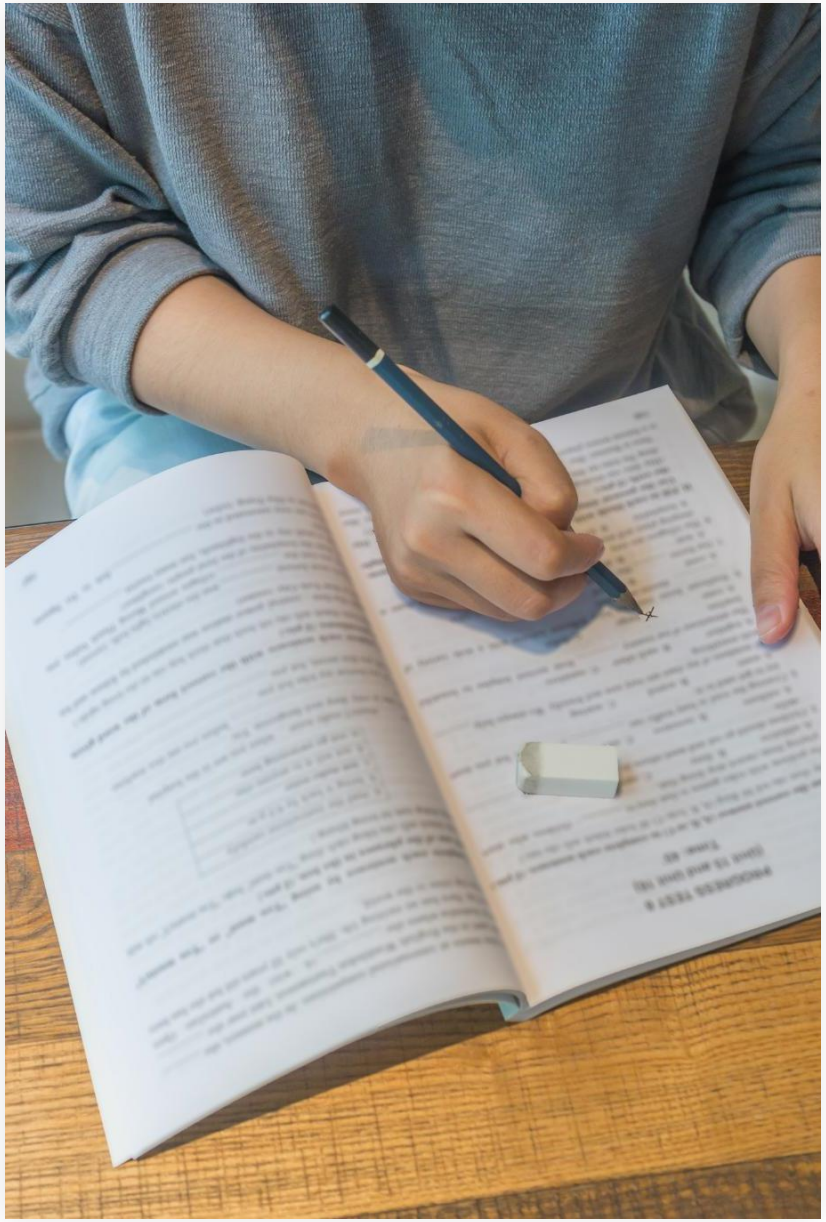
Students should analyze poetic devices like enjambment, caesura, metaphor, tone, structure, and imagery.

Comparative Analysis

Compare poems such as 'Exposure' vs 'Bayonet Charge' and 'Ozymandias' vs 'My Last Duchess' for conflict and power.

Contextual Influence

Historical and cultural contexts shape the interpretation and meaning of poems in this cluster.



UNSEEN POETRY

Initial Reading and Comprehension

Read the poem twice to understand its tone, mood, and overall meaning for better analysis.

Annotate Language Features

Identify and highlight similes, metaphors, alliteration, and other key language features in the poem.

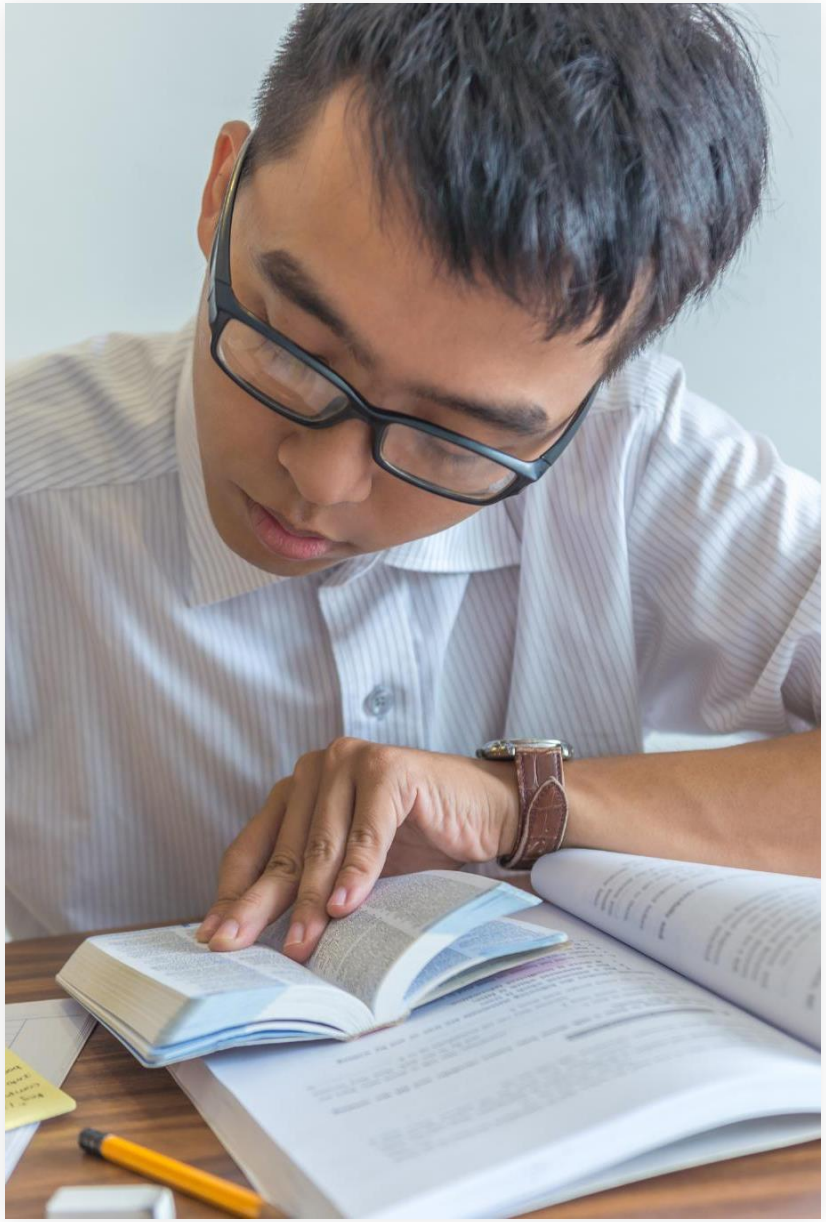
Analyze Structure and Tone Shifts

Recognize changes in tone or perspective and analyze how the poem’s structure supports its message.

Formulate Clear Response

Start with an overview, use short quotations, and explain their effects to support a detailed analysis.

REVISION AND EXAM STRATEGIES



REVISION STRATEGIES FOR GRADE 7+

Reread the texts

Mind Maps and Key Themes

Create mind maps for each text focusing on themes, characters, and important quotations to enhance understanding.

Timed Essay Practice

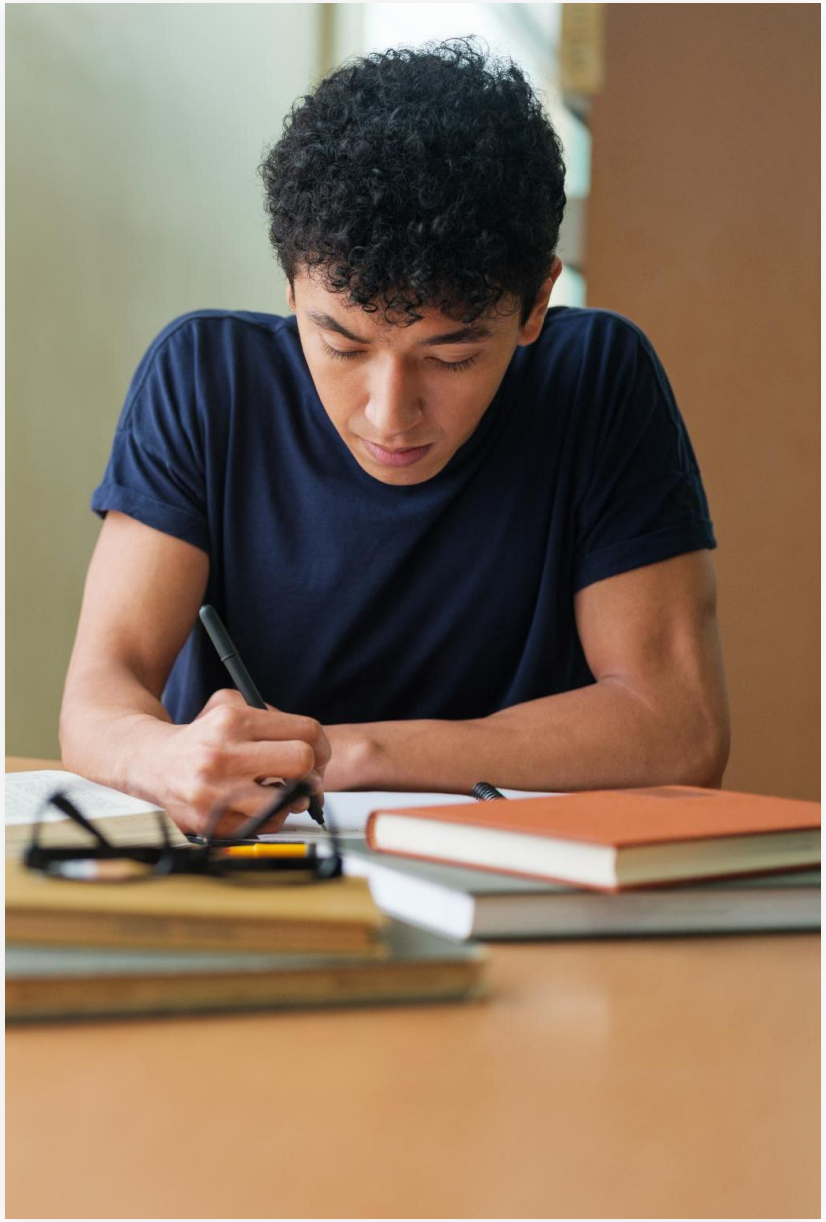
Practice writing timed essays to improve exam technique and build confidence for high-level responses.

Use Feedback and Exemplar Responses

Use mark schemes, feedback, and exemplar essays to understand top student responses and improve analysis skills.

Consistent Review and Organisation

Regularly revisit notes, use quizzes and flashcards, and set realistic goals for consistent, active revision.



FINAL THOUGHTS

Active Reading and Annotation

Engage with texts actively by annotating and exploring different interpretations to deepen understanding.

Analytical Writing

Focus on how writers use language and structure to convey meaning in your exam responses.

Strategic Revision

Target weaker areas and reinforce strengths to revise efficiently and confidently.

Positive Mindset

Maintain confidence and motivation throughout your revision and exam preparation journey.



USEFUL REVISION WEBSITES

- AQA | Resources | Past Papers & AQA Mark Schemes
- Mr Bruff – YouTube
- Mr Salles Teaches English - YouTube