

National 5 Useful Information, Websites and Revision Tips.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation.

- Use the BBC Bitesize sites for their tips on how to answer the different types of questions.
- Complete the 2 SQA Specimen papers and Past papers available for free on their website, and mark with the marking schemes.
- Use the My E-Tutor website to help you with “Obvious Mistakes for National 5 English Reading for UAE”.
- Buy the SQA endorsed “National 5 English: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation” book and work through it.
- Buy Intermediate Two English Past Papers and use the SQA’s “Guidance on the use of Past Paper Questions” to help you complete the right types of questions.
- Practice! There’s tons of stuff out there if you look. If you’ve run out of things to do – ask your teacher, they’ll have more.

Critical Essay Writing

- Use the BBC Bitesize sites for their tips on improving critical essays.
- Use the English Department’s resources to show you how to write good introductions, essay paragraphs, analyse and evaluate correctly.
- Read over your notes and texts so that they are firmly embedded in your mind. You should revise English at least once a week for a whole night – or better, revise a little each night so it’s firmly implanted in your mind for May!
- Use the SQA website to build yourself a Revision Timetable and stick to it.
- Practice building ‘skeleton essays’ which have your introduction points laid out, your PEAR paragraphs and conclusion. These are great to help you work out structure issues, so you definitely have a **P**oint to your paragraphs, **E**vidence, **A**nalysis of your quotation and **R**eference back to the task and question.
- Build up to and time yourself writing critical essays so that you are comfortable writing in 45 – 50 minutes.
- Practice, practice, practice.

Scottish Set Text Section

- Read over your Scottish Text(s) regularly – you cannot learn it all the night before the exam! Take it slowly; read them regularly and your notes too.
- Print off blank copies of your poems/sections of your play and annotate them from memory – see what you already know, and add to them daily.
- Build tables and mindmaps of comparisons between characters, poems, themes or anything else you could possibly compare.
- Practice the 8 mark answer by writing comparisons between **poems** based on themes; narrative voice; similar techniques; style of writing etc. If **prose or drama**, complete 8 mark answer plans on the main characters; themes; style of writing; setting; gender representations and relationships and any other techniques you could write on.
- There are SQA-endorsed books out there for Critical Reading. These may help – but check they have your texts first.

Portfolio Writing

- Do what your teacher tells you – they will have marked your piece and given you feedback on how to improve.
- Work through each paragraph separately – is this the best way I could have written it? If it’s a ‘No’ – it needs work!
- Use the My E-Tutor website and SQA Understanding Standards websites to guide you in improving your writing. There will be exemplar pieces for you to read. Good writing has excellent vocabulary and technical accuracy. It also uses imagery and word choice to effect, as well as employs different sentence structures to help the piece flow.

Revise – there’s nothing better than good old-fashioned hard work. Attend study classes; ask questions; do extra work and get it marked. Your best resource is your teacher!

BBC Bitesize for National 5: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zmcrd2p>

SQA Website- National 5 English: <http://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/47410.html>

My E-Tutor Website: National 5 Section: <http://blog.myetutor.tv/author/national-5-english-tutor/>

BBC Standard Grade Close Reading: http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/standard/english/close_reading_exam/