

GCSE – Component 2 Language – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

- This unit introduces students to the second GCSE language exam and actively practises the key skills needed. This challenging paper features two extracts to read, one modern and one nineteenth century. Students must learn to compare, contrast, analyse and summarise these extracts in the reading section and should be able to produce quality non-fiction in the subsequent writing section. Crucially, students should develop a critical eye and develop an ability to quickly identify a writer's attitude and viewpoint.

Key terminology taught:

- Comment
- Evidence
- Writer's techniques
- Letter
- Article
- Report
- Review
- Speech
- Purpose
- Audience
- Form
- SHEEP

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Encourage your child to read quality non-fiction, even if it's just extracts. Ask your child's teacher for recommendations or look on the following sites for multiple choices:

The Guardian Opinion section

The New Yorker

New Scientist

New Statesmen

Quality news outlets such as The Times, BBC, The Observer, The Independent or

- Revise key terminology by making quizzes on Quizlet.com for your child to complete or making simple flashcards to practise with your child.
- Use BBC Bitesize to revise the formatting of different types of non-fiction. Your child needs to be able to adhere to the conventions of each type:
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/z27cmnb/revision/1>
- Your child should be encouraged to create their own non-fiction including the techniques from the Mega Map.
- Your child should try to increase their reading speed where possible and may need help and motivation to do this.
- Your child should also work on their vocabulary as much as possible, which can be done here:

<https://Vocabulary.com>

<https://PowerVocab.com>

<https://7littlewords.com>

WordOfTheDay App

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- How can we be sure we're reading the truth?
- How could a writer manipulate their reader?
- Why is journalism important?
- Under what circumstances would you write a letter to an authority figure to express your views?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Create a giant map of major historical, political and social events of the 19th and 20th century. At all points, consider the impact these events would have on society and how we communicate.
- Read famous letters from influential people, watch famous speeches on YouTube (Obama, Roosevelt etc.)

Suggested further reading:

Students should be reading as much as possible in preparation for this exam, particularly any non-fiction which has a purpose and an identifiable viewpoint.

- <https://www.themanual.com/culture/famous-speeches-from-history/>
- <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/features/the-greatest-letters-ever-written-5333633.html>
- Journalists who write lively articles on current affairs with a distinctive style:

David Mitchell

Caitlin Moran

Marina Hyde

Trevor Mitchell

Charlie Brooker

Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett