

Kinross High School: Faculty of English & Literacy

Higher Success Guide

When studying English, pupils are expected to actively work on developing their skills through class work, homework tasks, and their own personal reading and research.

Pupils focus on building confidence with reading, writing, talking and listening. The following online resources are available:

- Past Papers: www.sqa.org.uk/pastpapers/findpastpapers.htm
- PressReader (access to a wide range of quality articles): www.pressreader.com
- `SCHOLAR (online resources to support Higher course): <https://scholar.hw.ac.uk/index.html>
- BBC Bitesize (resources to support the Higher course): www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects

Improving Reading Skills

Reading at home is the best ways to support learners in expanding their knowledge of language, vocabulary and skills in reading. At home you can:

- Encourage pupils to read – aim for an hour and a half a week. This will make a HUGE difference.
- Encourage pupils to read quality non-fiction writing (broadsheet newspaper articles) – sites such as PressReader and the department twitter page provide access to quality writing.
- Access the library to give pupils the opportunity to read a range of texts. Chat with library staff for recommendations – they are the experts!
- Encourage pupils to use online dictionaries to widen vocabulary and develop understanding – www.meriam-webster.com/word-of-the-day

To develop understanding of the literature studied in class, pupils should regularly revise all notes and resources. They should focus on:

- Understanding characters, plot, setting and theme
- Develop quotation banks that can used in their responses to text to support ideas and arguments

Improving Writing Skills

To support developing creative writing skills for the Writing Folio, pupils should focus on the golden rule – SHOW don't TELL. At home you can:

- Encourage pupils to focus on using the senses, imagery and a wide and varied vocabulary to make writing vivid and interesting for the reader.

To support discursive writing skills for the Writing Folio, pupils must ensure their ideas are well-research and well-structured. At home you can:

- Discourage use of Wikipedia for research – information cannot be verified

- Encourage pupils to access newspapers, PressReader, TED talks etc. to explore topics and issues.

It is also important to ensure that learners are confidence with language and grammar rules. To support this, at home you can:

- Encourage pupils to always check over work carefully. Pupils must self-assess their writing before submission and this is an important element of developing writing skills.
- Websites that focus on improving accuracy in writing include:

www.youtube.com/user/TheGrammarGirl

www.ictgames.com/literacy.html

www.sentenceplay.co.uk/index.htm

Steps for Success

- Come to class ready to learn - with all resources
- If absent, catch up on any missed work – access resources shared on Google Classroom
- Find a quiet place to complete homework and study
- Use a diary or phone calendar to record homework and deadlines
- Use feedback to identify next steps and how to make progress
- Attend available study support sessions to build confidence

Exam Paper 1	Exam Paper 2	Coursework
<u>Reading for Understanding, Analysis & Evaluation</u> 30% overall grade	<u>Critical Reading</u> Scottish Text Questions Critical Essay 40% overall grade	<u>Writing Folio</u> Creative Writing Piece Discursive Writing Piece 30% overall grade Submitted to SQA in March