



REVISION TECHNIQUES

ENGLISH LITERATURE

USING REVISION GUIDES

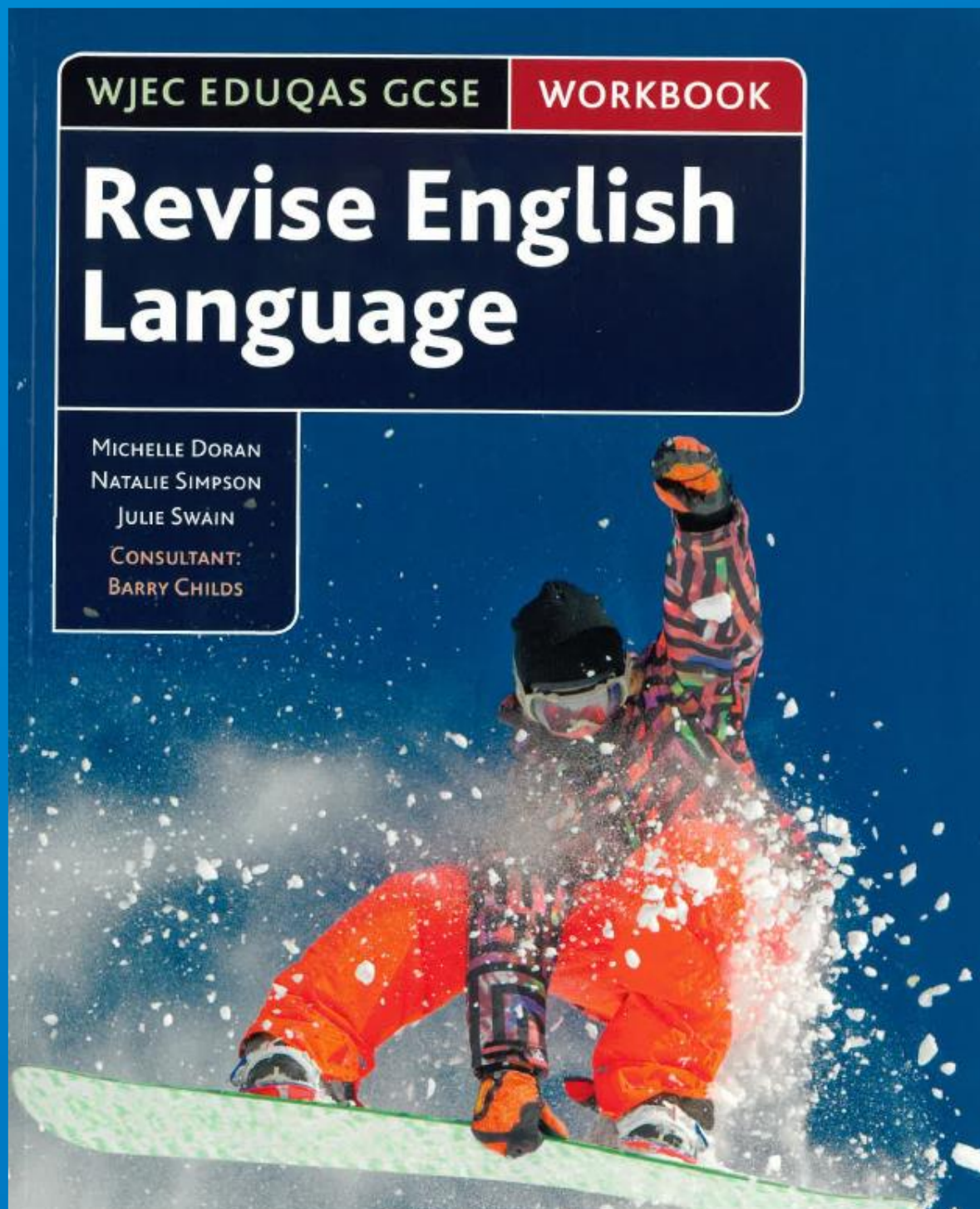
Students should be using revision guides actively.

They should NOT just read them. They need to ENGAGE with them.

What does this mean?



USING REVISION GUIDES



- Available tonight from outside the canteen
- Priced £4 at SVC (£2.50 cheaper than Amazon)
- Everything they need for **English Language** revision

The next English mock is on Wednesday 18th March. This will be on Component 1.



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Activity 2

a. Read the extract below carefully.

The Hundred Secret Senses by Amy Tan

Here the narrator is just about to meet her older Chinese step-sister for the first time...

I was nearly six by the time Kwan came to this country. We were waiting for her at the customs area of San Francisco Airport. [...] My mother was nervous and excited, talking non-stop: 'Now listen, kids, she'll probably be shy, so don't jump all over her... And she'll be skinny as a beanpole, so I don't want any of you making fun of her...'

When the customs official finally escorted Kwan into the lobby where we were waiting Aunt Betty pointed and said, 'That's her. I'm telling you that's her.' Mom was shaking her head. This person looked like a strange old lady, short and chubby, not exactly the starving waif Mom pictured or the glamorous teenage sister I had in mind. She was dressed in drab gray pyjamas, and her broad brown face was flanked by two thick braids.

Kwan was anything but shy. She dropped her bag, fluttered her arms, and bellowed, 'Hall-oo! Hall-oo!' Still hooting and laughing, she jumped and squealed the way our new dog did whenever we let him out of the garage. This total stranger tumbled into Mom's arms, then Daddy Bob's. She grabbed Kevin and Tommy by the shoulders and shook them. When she saw me, she grew quiet, squatted on the lobby floor, and held out her arms. I tugged on my mother's skirt. 'Is that my big sister?'

b. Now record your impressions of Kwan in the table below.

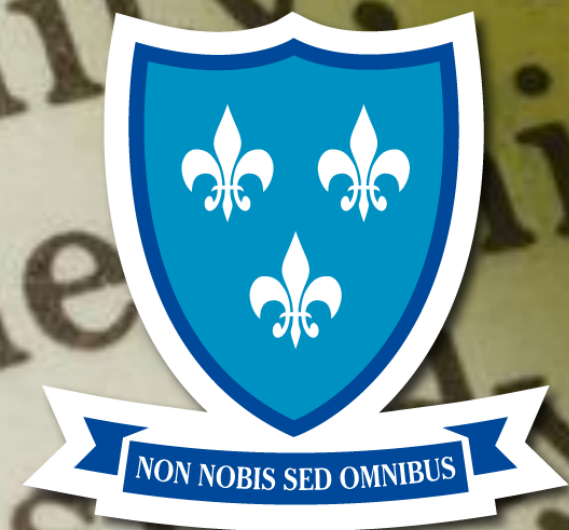
Impressions of Kwan	
Evidence	Effect
'This person looked like a strange old lady, short and chubby...'	The writer uses a simile to compare Kwan to an old lady to convey her small size. We get the sense that she is unusual in appearance through the word 'strange' and perhaps that she looks old before her time.
'... not exactly the starving waif Mom pictured'	Understatement – the writer contrasts the expectations of the narrator's mother to emphasize the fact that she is 'short and chubby' and her appearance is not what was expected.
'...or the glamorous teenage sister I had in mind'	
'She was dressed in drab gray pyjamas'	

- It is a workbook. Students just need to work their way through it.
- They should complete every page by 2nd June.



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1. Read with a highlighter at the ready.
2. Identify key quotations and significant information.
3. Don't highlight everything.



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TOP TIP

Consider the extent to which the witches are to blame for the death of Duncan. Is Macbeth's ambition or their prophecy the real reason for his actions?

Macbeth is a **warrior** and the Thane of Glamis. His **ambitions** lead him to betray and murder his king to take the throne of Scotland. In the play, Macbeth:

- defeats the armies of the rebellion against King Duncan (I.2).
- meets three witches who prophesy that he will be king.
- plots with his wife to murder Duncan and assume the throne (I.7, II.2, 4).
- arranges for his friend, Banquo, to be murdered (III.2, 3) in fear of the witches' prediction that Banquo's children will be kings.
- has Macduff's family killed on the basis of further prophecies.
- is cornered by English and Scottish forces, and killed in single combat by Macduff.

MACBETH'S IMPORTANCE TO THE PLAY AS A WHOLE

Macbeth is the **fatal protagonist** of the play whose tragic rise and fall is told. Although he is initially presented as **brave** and **valiant**, we witness how **ambition drives Macbeth to betrayal, brutality and ultimately his death.**

EXAM FOCUS: WRITING ABOUT MACBETH

Key point	Evidence/Further meaning
• Macbeth is first and foremost a warrior – courage is his defining quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name' (I.2.16). • The Captain describes Macbeth's bravery in battle.
• He is not essentially a brutal character. In fact, Lady Macbeth worries that her husband might be too kind to kill the king.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Yet do I fear thy nature; / It is too full o'the milk of human-kindness / To catch the nearest way' (I.5.14–16). • Mildness and pure white colour of milk suggests Macbeth has these attributes too.
• Banquo observes that the witches' prophecies have come true, but he fears his friend has accelerated events with dishonesty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Thou hast it now: king, Cawdor, Glamis, all, / As the weird women promised, and, I fear, / Thou play'st most foully for't' (III.1.1–3). • Echoes the witches claim that 'fair is foul' (I.1.9).
• Finally, Macbeth is thought of as a mass murderer .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'this dead butcher' (V.6.108). • Malcolm does not even use his name.

that the... does... At the start of the play he has good qualities. He changes under the influence of the witches and his wife. You need to balance his final condition – the treacherous, mass murderer under the sway of supernatural forces – with his earlier and finer qualities: his love of his wife, his sensitive imagination and bravery. Ask, what remains at the end? Ensure your answer is balanced.

KEY QUOTATION: A FATAL FLAW

At the end of his soliloquy, Macbeth admits he has 'no spur / To prick the sides of my intent, but only / Vaulting ambition' (lines 25–7). This reveals his **fatal flaw** to the audience, and suggests the tragedy to come. Shakespeare shows us that Macbeth knows King Duncan is 'meek' and 'great' (lines 17–18) but still his **ambition is stronger than his respect.**



TOP TIP

Don't forget, Shakespeare places Macbeth between two opposing forces: the witches who are evil and God who is good. Macbeth is human, and so a mixture of good and evil. This is what interests us about him.

KEY THEME: SECURITY

Macbeth has been obsessed with the need for security since assassinating Duncan. Shakespeare portrays him as frightened of what he cannot control. This is shown in his need to visit the witches and find the certainty of 'security' (III.5.32). **One factor in establishing the trustworthiness of the prophecies in Macbeth's mind is the speed with which they happen:** he becomes 'Cawdor' (I.3.106) immediately after the witches say he will; now, having been told to watch out for Macduff, Shakespeare has Lennox appear with the same warning. The effect of this is that Macbeth (and, to an extent, the audience) feels secure at this point that the prophecies can be trusted.

REVISION FOCUS: MACBETH'S TRANSFORMATION

Consider how Macbeth changes throughout the play. Make a chart to show how he descends into a moral abyss. Choose a series of key moments and quotations to record his fall and add these to your graph. Learn the pattern of these events so that you can write confidently about his character development.

TOP TIP: MAKING CONNECTIONS

Look for original and powerful connections between characters. For example, Banquo and Macduff are linked by their opposition to Macbeth; Lady Macbeth and Lady Macduff both die, though in very different circumstances. You could focus on how Macbeth is tempted. Contrast this with how Banquo is tempted, but does not give way.



NON NOBIS SED OMNIBUS

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Now turn these highlighted notes into YOUR revision.

G4 - Copy out key quotations ten times each.

G5/G6 - Use the information to create an essay plan about the topic on the revision page.

G7-G9 - Make notes focussed on AO2 (effects of the writer's choices of language, form and structure).

