***How to revise for your English mocks***

**In January 2023 you have to complete two essays on the following:**

1. A question on ‘Of Mice and Men’
2. A piece of transactional writing

**How to revise ‘Of Mice and Men’**

* First and foremost use the revision guide you have been given.
* You could also re-read the novel and annotate accordingly.
* Go back to the OneDrive notes, ensure you understand them and can write with ease about possible themes and characters.

Below is a list of other revision activities you could undertake to help you prepare for your exams:

1. **Plot time line**

It is essential that you know that plot of a text - from memory write down the plot of your text. Then check it with help from the text or a revision website.

Highlight or colour code the different themes on your timeline in different colours. Make some sections larger to suggest their significance.

1. **Revision clocks or Knowledge maps**

Take a character, or a theme, or aspect of context and write down everything that you can remember about it (Brain). Once you have done this you should get your exercise book and check adding in anything missed to your map from that (Book), then ask a friend studying the same for anything else you have missed (Buddy), then finally ask your teacher or a revision guide for anything else (Boss). You soon start to build up a comprehensive understanding. Repeat the same process a week later; how much more can you remember?

1. **Quotations**

Select a killer quotation for each aspect of a text - for each character, theme, key moment etc. - analyse them for language and structure etc. then try to remember them. Ask your teacher to give you some killer quotations if you're stuck and test yourself on them.

1. **Exam questions**
* Ask for extracts, and other questions from your teacher.
* Do some of your own research - websites, revision guides, videos, podcasts.
* Read around the context - go to the British library website or national archives for some additional key context.
1. **Revising Characters:**

Make a cue card for each character using following points:

1. Consider why they are important in the novel or play. Why did the writer include this character?

2. Consider how each character changes in the novel or play. How has the character developed or changed as the plot progresses?

3. Identify the key moments of the novel or play. Which section does each character play an important part in?

4. Look at your notes on the different themes in the novel or play. Does thinking about a theme develop your understanding of the character?

5. Look at your notes on the historical context of the novel or play. Does this develop your understanding or insight into the character?

6. Pick a minimum of three key quotations for each character. Annotate them and explore them to consider how the writer has used language to tell us about the character.

1. **Character Study**

 Draw an outline of each character. On the inside, write how the character thinks about themselves. Around the outside, write how other characters react to this person.

Use quotes as well as your own description.

Try linking two characters and write about their relationship.

1. **Revising themes**

Makes a cue card for each theme:

1. Consider why these themes are important in the novel or play. What does the writer want the reader to think on this issue?

2. Consider how the theme changes throughout the novel or play. How does this theme develop or change in importance as the events and plot progresses?

3. Identify key moments for each theme. Which section of the novel or play do they play an important part in?

4. Look at your notes about the different characters in the text. Does your thinking about a key character develop your understanding of a theme?

5. Look at the historical context of the text. Does this develop your understanding of the theme?

6. Pick at least three key quotations for each theme. Annotate them to consider how the writer has used language to tell us something.

**Past Paper Questions:**

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| Who do you consider to be the most important character on the ranch?  | How is the theme of Anger presented?  |
| Explore the character of Candy | How is life on the Ranch presented? |
| Who do you consider to be the happiest on the ranch? | How are Memories presented? |
| Who do you consider to be unhappy on the ranch? | How is the theme of Cruelty presented? |
| Explore the character of Slim | How is the theme of Loss presented?  |
| Explore the relationship between George and Lennie | How is the theme of Suffering presented? |
| Explore the character of Candy | How is the theme of Prejudice presented? |
| Explore the character of Crooks | How is the theme of Friendship presented? |
| Explore the character of George | Consider the importance of locations in Of Mice and Men? |
| Explore the character of Lennie | How does Steinbeck use animals to present ideas about life on the ranch?  |
| Explore the relationship between Curley and his Wife | Explore the theme of Loneliness |
| Explore the character of Curley | Consider how the theme of Violence is presented |
| Explore the character of Crooks | Explore how Power is presented in the novella.  |
| Consider the importance of Curley's Wife |  |
| Explore the character of Candy |  |

**How to revise for Transactional Writing**

1. Go back to your books, remind yourself of what transaction writing is.
2. Revisit the mark scheme, what do you have to do to secure success?
3. Look at examples, what makes these examples good pieces of transactional writing?
4. Have a go. There are practice questions below, try to have a go at one or two in timed conditions. Practice makes perfect!

**Past Paper questions**

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| Leaflet - Bullying |
| Speech - qualities in a person |
| Speech-TV opinions  |
| Article - Memorable Journeys |
| Letter to travel agent - complaint |
| Letter - competition in sport |
| Letter to editor - Young people and adventure |
| Speech- Boys and Girls education |
| Article |
| Letter of application - Job |
| Article - Hobbies |
| Article - Dream Destinations |
| Letter to Editor- Voluntary Work  |

