
ENGLISH LITERATURE

You will sit an exam on *A Christmas Carol* and *Blood Brothers* (1h 45m).

You write **one essay response** for each. For *A Christmas Carol*, this must include reference to the extract given **and** your knowledge of the full text. For *Blood Brothers*, there is no extract given so it relies on your knowledge of the full text, but you get a **choice** of two questions (answer **one**!)

A Christmas Carol

You should know:

- Why Dickens wrote the novel and his attitudes about Victorian society.
- How key characters are characterised, and why Dickens characterises them in this way. The most important characters to know about are Scrooge and the Cratchit family (particularly Bob), but you should also have some knowledge about others including Jacob Marley, the three Christmas spirits, Fred, Fezziwig, Ignorance and Want.
- Key quotations and methods and how to analyse them, especially:
 - Scrooge's character arc
 - Fezziwig 'shaking hands with every person individually'
 - The Cratchits' 'two tumblers and a custard-cup without a handle'
 - The motif of fire
- There is *Expert Knowledge* on all of the above (and more) which can be revised.

Blood Brothers

You should know:

- Why Russell wrote the play and his attitudes about the class system.
- How key characters are characterised, and why Russell characterises them in this way. The most important characters to know about are Mickey, Mrs Johnstone and Edward, but you should also have some knowledge about others including Mr and Mrs Lyons, Linda, the Narrator and Sammy.
- Key quotations and methods and how to analyse them, especially:
 - The symbolism of the 'bike with both wheels on'
 - The use of the bag of sweets as a prop and its symbolism
 - Mr Lyons' "It's just another sign of the times" and Edward's "If I couldn't get a job I'd just say, sod it" and the use of mirroring between these
 - The motif of superstition
- There is *Expert Knowledge* on all of the above (and more) which can be revised.

In both parts of the exam, you must show your ability to meet the assessment objectives: **AO1** (12 marks) is based on your response to the task topic, knowledge of the text and use of quotations/references. **AO2** (12 marks) is based on the quality and detail of your analysis of the writer's methods. **AO3** (6 marks) is based on your knowledge of the context (e.g. the writer's intentions and society at the time) and linking this to the task.