

## **GCSE English Language Revision** **Advice from the Chief Examiner**

*You are about to be bombarded with bullet points. Do not fear. These are in fact helpful hints sent from the Chief Examiner who sets the exam that you'll be taking. So treat them like precious golden nuggets and follow his advice!*

### **OVERVIEW**

#### **PAPER 1**

⌚ 2 hours (30% of GCSE)

##### **Section A** (15%)

⌚ Spend an hour on this section

Reading of a prose passage (fiction) and answering questions on it.

##### **Section B** (15%)

⌚ Spend an hour on this section (half an hour on each writing task)

Two writing tasks

- One to inform/explain/describe
- One to explore/imagine/entertain

#### **PAPER 2**

2 hours (30% of GCSE)

##### **Section A** (15%)

⌚ Spend an hour on this section

Reading of non-fiction texts and answering questions on them

##### **Section B** (15%)

⌚ Spend an hour on this section (half an hour on each writing task)

Two writing tasks

- One to review/analyse/comment
- One to argue/persuade/advise

### **HOW TO ACE EACH SECTION**

#### **Paper 1**

##### **Section A – Reading Fiction**

You will be given an extract from a short story or novel (around 70 lines) and will be asked to answer 4 questions on what you have read.

For instance, following last year's passage the first of the four questions looked like this:

##### **A.1 Look at lines 1-14**

Explain carefully why Obed Ratmotswe became a minister in South Africa. [10]

Each question is worth 10 marks so you should split your time equally

⌚ Spend 15 minutes on each of the questions in Section A

The questions will always tell you which section of the text to refer to in your answer. Use this to your advantage! If you want to read the whole text in one go, fine, but if you would rather attack it in chunks then do that – read the question first then look at the relevant section, underlining the points you want to talk about.

There are only 5 types of questions, though the majority of the time you will only be given 3 types of question:

##### **PERSONAL RESPONSE**

- What are you thoughts and feelings about a character or relationship?
- What impressions do you get of a character relationship or place?
- What do you learn about a character or relationship?
- What do you find interesting surprising or strange...?

##### **CHARACTER RESPONSE**

- What are the character's thoughts and feelings?
- How or why does a character react, behave or change?