**GCSE Core Confidence: My Story, Your Strategy**

A graphic design with a pen and graph and a book

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**Contents**

**My Story – Finding My Revision Style**

*My personal revision journey so far*.

Before I divulge my revision secrets, I need to introduce myself, who I am, what I have done, and what I am doing now?

Hello! My name is Hajira; I am in my late 20s currently on my journey of changing careers and learning new skills. I am currently doing an IBM Data Science course on Coursera, and I wish to become a Data Analyst or Data Scientist. The road is not easy, and the journey is long, but I am thoroughly enjoying every step of the way. I am building upon my skills and creating a rich community through Tik Tok. I have completed my GCSE’s, A-Level’s, bachelor’s in English literature, and did my teacher training at Oxford university. Despite the journey of teaching not being for me, I learnt so many skills that I now use in my day-to-day life. That is the theme of this revision advice guide, by learning through trial and error. Going through the process and not striving for perfection; but it is about enjoying the journey along the way.

I used to struggle a lot with the question of how do I revise? Or how to revise? And the secret is… I never knew. I feel as though, I kind of fumbled my way into knowing what I know now. The way I used to revise was purely instinctual, not actually knowing what the terminology for the techniques were.

It is okay to struggle, and it is okay to not know, as long as you strive to do your best.

As you look through and read this guide, I will do my best to explain how I used to revise for each subject. Along with providing useful links, models, tips and tricks. That will help you throughout your educational journey. I hope that this guide will help you, by alleviating your worries and your stress. GCSE’s can be intimidating, however with the right mindset and determination you can achieve anything.

**English Language and Literature**

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**Introduction**

“Is English really a subject you can revise for?” is a question I used to get asked a lot as a teacher. Not only that, I also used to ask myself that question when I used to have to revise for my own English exams. Everyone around me used to say, “all you have to do is waffle”, meaning that you don’t really need to be precise, and just throw everything at the wall hoping that something sticks (resulting in you getting the right marks). However, over time I learnt that English is the art of precision, becoming your own detective. You are posed with a question, you find the evidence, you formulate your argument and then present your case. That is what English is truly about. It is about building your communication and comprehension skills.

English is not a subject that tries to catch you out, it is not scary, it is not daunting, all you must do is sit with it and truly understand what it is you are being asked. This applies not only to English as a subject, but every subject that you do. Without understanding what is asked, how must you expect to answer the question in front of you. This is how you tackle your exams and GCSE’s.

**AQA**

Specification:

<https://cdn.sanity.io/files/p28bar15/green/dbb5a2227be7d057a13894c32aded01133433e8c.pdf>

**Shakespeare and the 19th century novel:**

**Shakespeare:**

* *Macbeth*
* *Romeo and Juliet*
* *The Tempest*
* *The Merchant of Venice*
* *Much Ado About Nothing*
* *Julius Caeser*

**The 19th century novel:**

* *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (Robert Louis Stevenson)*
* *A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)*
* *Great Expectations (1867) (Charles Dikens)*
* *Jane Eyre (Charlotte Brontë)*
* *Frankenstein (1831) (Mary Shelly)*
* *Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)*
* *The Sign of Four (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)*

**Modern texts and poetry:**

**Modern texts (Drama)**

* *An Inspector Calls (JB Priestly)*