**AQA GCSE English Literature Checklist**

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| **Literature Paper 1** | **Key knowledge and skills** | **R/A/G** |
| ***Macbeth*** | Detailed understanding of the plot |  |
| Structure of the play (what happens in each act and scene) |  |
| Setting: the heath, Macbeth’s castle, Duncan’s castle |  |
| Character analysis: Macbeth |  |
| Character analysis: Lady Macbeth |  |
| Character analysis: Banquo |  |
| Character analysis: King Duncan |  |
| Character analysis: Macduff |  |
| Character analysis: The Witches |  |
| Character analysis: Malcolm and Donalbain |  |
| Character analysis: Minor characters (Fleance, Lady Macduff, the Porter, the Old Man, Seyward, the Captain, Lennox, Ross) |  |
| Themes: Ambition |  |
| Themes: The supernatural |  |
| Themes: Appearances v reality |  |
| Themes: Kingship |  |
| Themes: Masculinity and femininity |  |
| Themes: Fate and free will |  |
| Themes: Power and tyranny |  |
| Motifs: Nature and the natural world |  |
| Motifs: Light and darkness |  |
| Motifs: Children |  |
| Motifs: Blood |  |
| Motifs: Sleep |  |
| Motifs: Visions |  |
| Context: King James I |  |
| Context: Beliefs in witchcraft |  |
| Context: Religion |  |
| Context: The Great Chain of Being |  |
| Context: The Divine Right of Kings |  |
| Context: Aristotle’s theory of tragedy |  |
| Key quotations (at least 1-2 for each theme and character, carefully chosen for detailed analysis) |  |
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| ***A Christmas Carol*** | Plot: Stave 1 |  |
| Plot: Stave 2 |  |
| Plot: Stave 3 |  |
| Plot: Stave 4 |  |
| Plot: Stave 5 |  |
| Character analysis: Scrooge |  |
| Character analysis: Marley’s ghost |  |
| Character analysis: The Ghost of Christmas Past |  |
| Character analysis: The Ghost of Christmas Present |  |
| Character analysis: The Cratchis |  |
| Character analysis: Fred and Fan |  |
| Character analysis: Mr Fezziwig and Belle |  |
| Themes: The Spirit of Christmas |  |
| Themes: Money and Avarice |  |
| Themes: Ignorance and Want |  |
| Themes: Families |  |
| Themes: Death |  |
| Themes: Responsibility |  |
| Themes: Redemption |  |
| Context: Social Class |  |
| Context: Gender |  |
| Context: The Poor |  |
| Context: Christianity and Morality |  |
| Key quotations (at least 1-2 for each character and theme, carefully chosen for detailed analysis) |  |
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| **Across both texts** | Putting an extract in context of the wider text |  |
|  | Planning a response where every paragraph links to the question |  |
|  | Beginning my response with a brief critical overview where I state my position or opinion on the question |  |

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| **Literature Paper 2** | **Key knowledge and skills** | **R/A/G** |
| **An Inspector Calls** | Plot: Act 1 |  |
| Plot: Act 2 |  |
| Plot: Act 3 |  |
| Character analysis: Mr Birling |  |
| Character analysis: Mrs Birling |  |
| Character analysis: Sheila Birling |  |
| Character analysis: Eric Birling |  |
| Character analysis: Gerald Croft |  |
| Character analysis: Inspector Goole |  |
| Character analysis: Edna |  |
| Themes and context: Britain in 1912 and 1945 |  |
| Themes and context: Family Life |  |
| Themes and context: Social Class |  |
| Themes and context: Young and Old |  |
| Themes and context: Men and Women |  |
| Themes and context: Judgement |  |
| Themes and context: Social Responsibility |  |
| Dramatic techniques: The pace of the action |  |
| Dramatic techniques: Entrances and exits |  |
| Dramatic techniques: Beginnings and ends of each act |  |
| Key quotations (at least 1-2 for each character and theme, carefully chosen for detailed analysis) |  |
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| **Love and Relationships Poetry** | When We Two Parted – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Love’s Philosophy – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Porphyria’s Lover – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Sonnet 29 – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Neutral Tones – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| The Farmer’s Bride – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Walking Away – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Letters from Yorkshire – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Eden Rock – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Follower – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Mother any distance – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Before you were mine – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Winter Swans – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Singh Song! – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Climbing My Grandfather – message and 3 key quotes |  |
| Romantic Love: Longing |  |
| Romantic Love: Fulfilment |  |
| Romantic Love: Loss |  |
| Romantic Love: Independence |  |
| Family Love: Strong bonds |  |
| Family Love: Admiration |  |
| Family Love: Rebellion |  |
| Themes: Distance |  |
| Themes: Desire and longing |  |
| Themes: Getting older |  |
| Themes: Death |  |
| Themes: Memory |  |
| Themes: Nature |  |
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| **Unseen Poetry** | How to identify the main message of the poem |  |
| Understand a range of poetic devices |  |
| Understand how to compare poetry for part ii) |  |
| Writing precisely |  |
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| **Across all parts of the paper** | Understanding of how to plan for non-extract essays |  |
| Understanding of how to speed plan a response to poetry |  |
| Writing SEED paragraphs that address all assessment objectives |  |
|  | Know the timings for each question |  |
|  | Know the structure needed to answer each question |  |