

SPRING HALF-TERM 2 ENGLISH LANGUAGE REVISION TIMETABLE

W/C 23RD FEB
COMPARISON
QUESTION
COMPREHENSION

W/C 2ND MARCH
STORY
OPENING

W/C 9TH MARCH
DEVELOPING
PARAGRAPHS IN
TW

W/C 16TH MARCH
COMPARISON
QUESTION
COMPREHENSION

W/C 23RD MARCH
HOW VS
IMPRESSIONS
QUESTIONS

EACH TASK
WILL TAKE UP
TO 30
MINUTES



English Language Revision Tasks

- Get a new revision notepad/ paper
- Complete the assigned task each week
- Each task takes 15-30 minutes
- Think harder
- You've got this!



W/C 23rd Feb

Paper 2 comprehension, comparison question

Have a go at finding and writing as many whats and hows as you can to answer this question:

In both texts, the writer describes their view of mental health. Compare:

- What their views of mental health are.
- How they express their opinions on mental health.



Remember, the **4 mark comparison** question is **4 pieces** of information **directly retrieved** from the text.

The **10 mark** comparison question is split into **2 sections: 6 whats** and **4 hows**.



- Over the next 2 slides are two texts: **text A** is from the **21st century**, **text B** is from the **19th century**.

Guidance:

'Whats' (Simple, Precise Retrieval)



Guidance: You are retrieving information, often explicit.

E.g. In text A, the writer suggests that men's mental health is stagnant by stating that the suicide statistic hasn't 'shifted' 'in decades'. This would get the mark because it clearly states a view (stagnant) with a quote. Do not explain.

'Hows' (Focus on Impression & Technique)



Guidance: Focus on something that has created your impression e.g. zoom in on a word or technique.

E.g. The metaphoric 'fog' initially described by the writer indicates the confusion and heaviness that the writer feels about the public perception of mental health. This would get the mark because it concisely focuses on one word, identifies a technique, and precisely explains the meaning. Beware of taking words out of context!

Text A. The Quiet Fight: Being a Man in 2026

Growing up, I was always told to "take it on the chin." It's the classic 21st-century script: work hard, don't complain, and stay strong. But honestly, staying "strong" is starting to feel like a trap. In a world that never switches off, the pressure to be a provider while keeping a perfect, stoic exterior is exhausting.

The Facts of the Matter

When you look at the numbers, it's clear that men are struggling in ways we don't always talk about at the pub or in the gym:

- **Suicide Rates:** Suicide remains the biggest killer of men under 50. In the UK, men account for about **75% of all registered suicides**, a statistic that hasn't shifted significantly in decades.
- **Accessing Help:** We are much less likely to ask for professional support. Only **36% of referrals** to NHS talking therapies are for men, despite the rising levels of distress.
- **Coping Mechanisms:** Men are nearly **three times more likely** than women to become dependent on alcohol or report frequent drug use, often using these as a way to "self-medicate" hidden pain.
- **The Digital Mirror:** Social media has created a new crisis. Men are increasingly struggling with body image, but while women often worry about weight, men are pressured to meet an **unrealistic "lean and muscular" ideal** fueled by curated fitness feeds.

My Take on the "Mask"

In my opinion, the phrase "man up" is the most toxic piece of advice ever handed down through generations. It's a shortcut to silence that prevents us from dealing with actual problems. We're taught that vulnerability is a weakness, but I think it takes way more "balls" to tell a mate you're drowning than it does to pretend everything is fine while you're falling apart.

I also believe that **the way we talk about "toxic masculinity" often misses the mark.** While some old-school behaviors are definitely harmful, just labeling everything "toxic" makes a lot of guys feel like being a man is inherently wrong. This creates a defensive wall rather than an open door. We don't need to stop being men; we need to redefine what being a "strong" man actually looks like.

Finally, **it is absolutely ridiculous that we still view mental health as separate from physical health.** If I broke my leg, nobody would tell me to "just walk it off" for six months. Yet, when a guy is struggling with depression—which affects **1 in 8 men**—he's expected to just "grind through it." We need to stop treating our brains like they're invincible and start treating them like the organs they are.

Text B. The Shadow on the Soul: A Gentleman's View (1885)

The fog in London is thick today, but the fog in my own mind is thicker. In this age of steam and industry, we pride ourselves on progress, yet we treat the human spirit like a broken machine. To be a man in this Victorian era is to be a pillar of granite; any crack in the surface is seen not as an illness, but as a moral failure.

Observations of the Age

Life for the "melancholy" man is governed by harsh realities and grim institutions:

- **The Asylum System:** If a man's mind truly breaks, he is sent to places like Bethlem Royal Hospital. There are currently over **100,000 people confined** in asylums across England and Wales, often in appalling conditions.
- **The Label of "Neurasthenia":** A new diagnosis has emerged for the stressed worker—"American Nervousness." It is blamed on the **rapid pace of the railway and the telegraph**, which doctors say overstimulates our nerves.
- **Harsh Treatments:** For those of us struggling with "low spirits," the common cures are **mercury pills, cold water immersion, or complete isolation**, none of which seem to reach the heart of the pain.
- **Social Ruin:** A diagnosis of "insanity" is a legal death sentence; a man can lose his right to manage his property, his business, and his children under the **1845 Lunacy Act**.

My Private Convictions

In my view, the "Rest Cure" is nothing short of psychological torture. Being forced to lie in a dark room for weeks without books or company does not heal a man; it roves him of his remaining reason. It is a barbaric practice disguised as modern medicine.

I also believe that **our society's obsession with "character" is a hollow lie.** We are told that a man of good character cannot suffer from nerves, which is utter nonsense. Some of the most brilliant minds I know are the ones most haunted by shadows, yet they must hide behind a stiff collar and a fake smile to avoid being shunned by polite society.

Furthermore, **it is a disgrace that we treat the poor in the "pauper asylums" like common criminals.** Poverty is not a mental defect, yet we lock men away simply because they have been broken by the gears of the factory. We claim to be a civilized nation, but we have no compassion for the weary mind.

Story openings W/C 2nd March

1. Read the two opening samples below. One is a just fine, the other is very good.

- **Sample A:** "The forest was dark and scary. I walked through the trees and felt afraid. It was very quiet and I couldn't see much. I wondered if I was being followed by something."
- **Sample B:** "The pines didn't just stand; they crowded. Every snap of a twig under my boot sounded like a gunshot in the suffocating silence. I didn't look back—I knew the shadows were lengthening, reaching for my heels."

Self-Reflection: Notice how Sample B uses **personification** and **sensory contrast** (consider sound) to create a mood without simply telling the reader "I was scared." Highlight these features.

2. To move your writing from a "description" to a "story," you must master these three structural pillars:

1. **In Media Res (Into the Middle):** Start where the action or the peak emotion is. Skip the "waking up" or "travelling to the location" phase.
2. **The Specific over the General:** Don't write about "a bird." Write about "a bedraggled crow." Specificity makes the reader trust your "voice."
3. **The Micro-Mystery:** Give the reader one "Why?" or "How?" in the first two sentences. (e.g., *Why is he carrying a heavy velvet box through a rainstorm?*)

The Prompt: *A character is standing outside a door they are afraid to open.*

Apply the **3 Practical Takeaways** below to write a 3-to-5 sentence opening.

 **Your Writing Toolkit:**

- **1. Choose a "Dominant Verb":** Pick one verb that sets the tone. Instead of "The door was old," try "The door **groaned**" (horror) or "The door **glowered**" (intimidation).
- **2. Use a Non-Visual Sense:** Describe the *smell* of the wood, the *temperature* of the brass handle, or the *thud* of a heart against ribs.
- **3. The "Zoom" Technique:** Start with a tiny detail (the peeling paint on the lock) before "zooming out" to the character's wider situation.

W/C 9th March

Developing paragraphs in transactional writing

Every main paragraph should be at least 4 sentences long, up to around 7 sentences. To make sure you points are developed, ask yourself these questions:

Why is this important?

Who will this matter to?

What does it look like now? What will it look like the future if changes are/are not made?

What is the point in mentioning this topic?

How do you propose you audience acts on this information?

Expand these 3 topics sentences below by using the questions above.

The railway lines need updating.

Mental health is a crisis for teenagers and it's time the government stepped in.

Technology in the school is outdated.

W/C 16th March

Guidance:

Paper 2 comprehension, comparison question

- Remember, the **4 mark** comparison question is 4 pieces of information directly retrieved from the text. The **10 mark** comparison question is split into 2 sections: 6 whats and 4 hows.

Over the next 2 slides are two texts: text A is from the 21st century, text B is from the 19th century.

Have a go at finding and writing as many whats and hows as you can to answer this question:

In both texts, the writer describes their view of success.

Compare:

What their views of success are.
How they express their opinions on becoming and being successful.



'Whats' (Simple, Precise Retrieval)

Guidance: You are retrieving information, often **explicit**.
E.g. In text A, the writer suggests that **men's mental health is stagnant** by stating that the suicide statistic **hasn't 'shifted' 'in decades'**. This would get the mark because it clearly states a **view (stagnant)** with a **quote**. If the quote is more explicit, you may just need to paraphrase that to get the mark. Do not explain.



'Hows' (Focus on Impression & Technique)

Guidance: Focus on something that has created your impression e.g. **zoom in** on a word or technique.
E.g. **The metaphoric 'fog'** initially described by the writer indicates the confusion and heaviness that the writer feels about the public perception of mental health. This would get the mark because it concisely focuses on one word, identifies a technique, and precisely explains the meaning of the word within its context. Beware of taking words out of context - if this had explained the weather, it wouldn't get the mark!

Text A. The Algorithm Aesthetic: My Path to the Top

People think being a "creator" is just posting selfies and getting free lattes. Honestly, that's such an outdated take. In 2026, success isn't about luck; it's about treating your life like a high-performance startup. I didn't just "get famous"—I engineered a digital ecosystem that finally started paying off last year.

The Metrics of Mastery

To understand how far I've come, you have to look at the data. My "success" is backed by cold, hard numbers that prove I'm not just screaming into the void:

- **Diversified Revenue:** I no longer rely on flickering ad-sense. My brand currently generates **65% of its income through direct-to-consumer digital products**, including my "Mindset Masterclass" and exclusive subscriber-only content.
- **Global Reach:** My primary channel hit **2.5 million subscribers** last month, with an average engagement rate of **8.2%**, which is nearly double the industry standard for my niche.
- **The Brand Pivot:** Last quarter, I secured a **six-figure multi-year partnership** with a major tech firm, shifting me from a "lifestyle vlogger" to a legitimate consultant in the digital wellness space.

My Unfiltered Truth

In my opinion, if you aren't obsessed with your data, you're just a hobbyist playing dress-up. The "authentic" creators who refuse to look at their analytics are usually the ones who disappear after six months. You have to be a ruthless scientist with your own personality.

I also believe that **"work-life balance" is a total myth for anyone who actually wants to be at the top.** If you want to influence the world, you have to be "on" 24/7. Success looks like a notification that never stops buzzing and a calendar that's booked three months in advance. If you're not willing to trade your privacy for a platform, then you simply don't want it enough. To me, a quiet life is a failed life.

Text B. The Gospel of Iron: A Titan's Rise (1892)

They call us "Captains of Industry," though my detractors prefer the term "Robber Barons." Let them whisper. Success in this glorious 19th century is not found in the drawing rooms of hereditary lords, but in the smoke and soot of the furnace. I did not inherit my position; I seized it from the raw materials of the earth and the boundless potential of the steam engine.

The Measure of a Man's Reach

My ascent is not a matter of luck, but a series of calculated victories that have reshaped the map of this nation:

- **Vertical Integration:** By owning the iron mines, the coal fields, and the ships that carry them, I have reduced the cost of steel production by **60% in less than a decade**.
- **Infrastructure Dominance:** My mills now provide the rails for over **thirty thousand miles of track**, effectively binding the East and West coasts with a ribbon of my own making.
- **The Scale of Wealth:** My personal fortune has grown to exceed **one hundred million dollars**, a sum that allows me to command more influence than many European monarchs.
- **Philanthropic Legacy:** I have already funded the construction of **over 500 public libraries**, ensuring that my name is etched in stone long after my factories have cooled.

My Unyielding Convictions

In my opinion, the "Law of Competition" is the only divine law that matters. It may be hard for the individual, but it is best for the race, because it ensures the survival of the fittest. To coddle the weak or the lazy is to sabotage the progress of civilization itself.

I also believe that **the man who dies rich, dies disgraced**. True success is not merely the hoarding of gold, but the wisdom to distribute it for the public good once you have proven you are the most capable of managing it. A man must spend the first half of his life earning his millions, and the second half giving them away—but only to those who possess the grit to help themselves. If a man will not work, he does not deserve to eat, let alone succeed.

W/C 23rd March

How vs impressions questions

Impressions question:

State the impression linked to the question, provide evidence, move on. Do this as many times as you can in the time given. 1 sentence is usually enough for 1 mark.

Quote + inference = mark

How question:

These are your mini PEEs. Make a concise point to answer the question, support with evidence, secure with a very brief explanation. 1 sentence is usually enough, sometimes you need 2.

Both question types can be either 5 or 10 marks so read the question carefully!

Task - use the extract on the next slide

Have a go at answering these 2 questions using the guidance given <<.

- 1) What impressions do you get of Curly's wife?
- 2) How does the writer portray the 2 men in the extract?

The final slide give you some ideas if you are struggling (ideas, not answers!).

Extract: *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Both men glanced up, for the rectangle of sunshine in the doorway was cut off. A girl was standing there looking in. She had full, rouged lips and wide-spaced eyes, heavily made up. Her fingernails were red. Her hair hung in little rolled clusters, like sausages. She wore a cotton house dress and red mules, on the insteps of which were little bouquets of red ostrich feathers.

"I'm lookin' for Curley," she said. Her voice had a nasal, brittle quality.

George looked away from her and then back. "He was in here a minute ago, but he went over to the cookhouse."

She put her hands behind her back and leaned against the door frame so that her body was thrown forward. "You're the new fellas that just come, ain't ya?"

"Yeah."

Lennie's eyes moved over her body, from her slender arms, bending at the elbows, her hands on her hips, over her bright cotton dress and the red ostrich feathers. "Yeah," he said.

"Well, if I can't find he-knows-who, I better look someplace else," she said playfully.

Lennie watched her, fascinated. George said, "Keep your eyes off her. Don't you even take a look at that bitch. I don't care what she says and what she does. I seen 'em poison before, but I never seen no piece of jail bait worse than her. You leave her be."

"I don't want no trouble," Lennie whispered. "I ain't done nothing, George."

"Well, get out of it, then. Stay away from her."

Lennie still stared at the doorway where she had been. "She's purty," he said defensively.

"Yeah, and she's a rattrap if I ever seen one."

Some ideas you might consider for your tasks on 23rd March

1. The "Danger" Symbolism: The repetition of the color **red** (lips, fingernails, shoes, feathers) is a classic literary "red flag." In the context of 1930s dust-bowl America, red symbolizes both passion and danger.

2. Attention-Seeking vs. Vulnerability: Her physical pose—"her body was thrown forward"—suggests she is desperate for attention in an environment where she is the only woman. However, the description of her hair as "sausage curls" and her "nasal, brittle" voice hints at a certain childishness or fragility.

3. The Male Perspective: Notice the "rectangle of sunshine was cut off." Steinbeck uses this to show that her presence brings "darkness" or trouble. George's harsh reaction ("jail bait," "rattrap") tells us that she is viewed as a threat to their survival, not as a person.