Subject: Year 7 English Contact: Ms Peterson or Mr McDonnell

Structure of the exam:

- 2 papers
- Paper 1 – Reading Assessment: 50 minutes (40 marks)
- Paper 2 – Writing Assessment: 45 minutes (40 marks)
- 80 marks in total

Topics to be covered in the exam:

Paper 1 – Reading

- Retrieving and selecting information from a text (true/false, tick boxes)
- Understanding inference and character presentation
- Analysing language and identifying how writers create atmosphere
- Understanding narrative voice: first person and third person
- Identifying and explaining figurative language: simile and metaphor
- Understanding implicit and explicit characterisation
- Identifying adverbs and explaining their effect

Paper 2 – Writing

- Word classes: nouns, adjectives and verbs
- Expanded noun phrases
- Implicit and explicit characterisation in writing
- Selecting effective verbs
- Homophones: to, too and two
- Comma use (fronted adverbials, relative clauses, lists)
- Semicolons to join independent clauses
- Sentence punctuation (questions, statements)
- Main and subordinate clauses
- Verb tenses (simple past)
- Narrative voice (first and third person)
- Extended descriptive writing with accurate SPaG
- Extended narrative writing using first-person voice

Types of question in the exam papers:

Paper 1 – Reading

- True/false retrieval questions
- Short-answer identification questions (phrase from text, word class)
- Multiple-choice inference questions
- 2-mark language analysis (quotation + explanation)
- 9-mark extended response: character / relationship analysis with quotations

Paper 2 – Writing

- Short grammar and punctuation tasks (1–2 marks each)
- Sentence-level writing tasks (expanded noun phrases, semicolons, verb tenses)
- 12-mark descriptive writing task (includes 3 marks for SPaG)
- 11-mark narrative writing task (includes 3 marks for SPaG)

Essential subject revision:

Type of revision	Resources needed	Time required
Grammar & Punctuation Revision Review word classes, commas, semicolons, clauses and tenses.	Class notes, knowledge organisers, grammar revision guides.	30 minutes
Reading Skills Practice Read a wide range of fiction texts. Practise finding quotations and writing explanations using the P-E-E structure.	Anthology extracts / past reading papers. Critical reading - KS3 English - BBC Bitesize	30 minutes

Year 7 English — Exam Command Words

Paper 1 — Reading		
Command word	**What it means**	**Top tip**
Tick (✓) one box	**Choose one** correct answer only. Read every option before deciding.	Don't rush — wrong ticks cannot be half-right.
Tick (✓) two boxes	**Choose exactly two** correct statements. Both must be right for full marks.	Check all options — the two correct ones may not be next to each other.
True or False	**Decide** whether each statement matches what the text says.	Base your answer only on the text — not what you already know.
Write a phrase from the text	**Copy** words **directly from the text**. Do not paraphrase.	The answer must be a phrase — not just a single word.
Identify the [adverb / word class]	**Name or find** a specific feature of language in the sentence.	You may also need to explain the effect — read the question carefully.
Explain what [word / phrase] suggests	Say what the language implies or makes the reader feel or think.	Use words like 'suggests', 'implies', 'shows' — avoid 'it means it is'.
How does the writer create…? (4 marks)	**Analyse** two language choices and explain their effect on the reader.	Choose a quotation, then explain its effect. Do this twice for full marks.
How does the writer present…? (9 marks)	Write in paragraphs about how language builds a character or relationship. Use at least 3 quotations.	Start each paragraph with a topic sentence. Structure: quote → analyse → effect.
Explain what we learn about… (2 marks)	**Describe what the text tells us about** a character using a quotation and an explanation.	Give the quotation first, then explain what it reveals about the character.

Paper 2 — Writing		
Command word	**What it means**	**Top tip**
Match each … by drawing lines	**Connect** items in one column to items in another.	One line per item only — do not connect one item to more than one answer.

Rewrite the sentence to include…	Keep the original sentence but add or change the named feature (e.g. expanded noun phrase).	The whole sentence must still make sense after your changes.
Write a more effective [verb]	Replace the bold word with a more precise or powerful alternative.	Think about the mood or image you want — not just a simple synonym.
Circle the correct homophone	Choose the correctly spelled word (e.g. to / too / two) from the options given.	Read the whole sentence — the meaning tells you which word fits.
Insert the missing [comma / punctuation]	Add punctuation marks to the correct places in the passage.	Re-read the sentence aloud after — does it still flow correctly?
Write one sentence using a semicolon	Write a sentence joining two independent clauses with a semicolon.	Both sides of the semicolon must be able to stand alone as full sentences.
Identify each clause as main or subordinate	Find the clause could stand alone (main) and which depends on the other (subordinate).	Remove the clause — if the sentence still makes sense, it was the main clause.
Write each verb in the simple past tense	Change the given verbs to their past tense form.	Watch for irregular verbs — they do not simply add -ed.
Rewrite in the other narrative voice	Change first person to third person, or vice versa. Change all pronouns and verb forms.	Check every pronoun in the sentence — not just the first one.
Write two paragraphs describing / about… (11–12 marks)	Produce two developed paragraphs of original writing. Marks split: content + SPaG.	Plan for 5 minutes first. Use the 'you should' bullet points as a checklist.

Key phrases used across both papers	
Phrase	**What to do**
"Use evidence from the text"	You must use a quote from the text — a general comment will not gain marks.
"In your own words"	Do not copy from the text — paraphrase what it says.
"At least three quotations"	Three is the minimum — using more can improve your mark.
"Topic sentences"	Begin each paragraph with a sentence that states your main point.
"SPaG" (spelling, punctuation & grammar)	3 marks in each extended writing task are awarded specifically for accuracy.
"Planning space"	Use it — even bullet points help structure your answer. Planning is not marked.

Additional subject revision:

Type of revision	Resources needed	Time required
Descriptive & Narrative Writing Practise writing descriptive paragraphs and first-person narratives using vivid vocabulary.	BBC Bitesize – English: Creative Writing Fiction writing - KS3 English - BBC Bitesize	30 minutes
Figurative Language Revise similes, metaphors, and how writers create atmosphere.	Class notes Knowledge organiser: Literary Techniques	20 minutes
Vocabulary & Spelling Revise homophones and practise selecting effective verbs and adjectives.	Look, cover, write, check – using your knowledge organisers. Grammar - KS3 English - BBC Bitesize	20 minutes
Characterisation Revise the difference between implicit and explicit characterisation with examples.	Knowledge Organisers Oak National Academy: English Year 7 English, secondary, Year 7 - Lesson listing | Oak National Academy Fiction writing - KS3 English - BBC Bitesize	30 minutes