

IGCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Richard III revision topics

These sections in your play text are very useful, and should be studied.

230 - 233 The main themes/ideas of the play.

234 - 243 Surveys the main characters - what they are like and what they do.

244 - 249 Aspects of the language of the play.

The pages above will amplify, and possibly provide a structure for, your own notes.

Possible essay topics

Write detailed plans or attempt the essay in full. In either case, you **MUST** include relevant, accurate quotations to illustrate your arguments/points.

1. Richard's attitude to/treatment of his own family as he makes his way to the throne.
2. In what ways does Richard behave like an actor?
3. Explore the effects of Richard's physical deformity on his attitudes and actions.
4. Chart the rise and fall of Richard's alliance with Buckingham.
5. Outline the various curses issued by old Queen Margaret, and show how they come true as the play progresses.
6. Analyse Richard's relationships with Lady Anne and *either* Queen Elizabeth *or* the Duchess of York.
7. Do you think that Richard changes after his coronation? In what ways?
8. Contrast Richmond's characterisation with Richard's. Are they equally effective?
9. What use does Shakespeare make of animal imagery in his depiction of Richard's character?
10. Use Richard, Clarence and Tyrrel to illustrate Shakespeare's exploration of conscience in the play.