The ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ page needs you!

Your school website has a section for students taking GCSE English. It has lots of revision ideas, practice questions, spelling and grammar exercises and quizzes, but the page titled ‘Frequently Asked Questions’ is empty.

Your task is to produce ten questions that students might ask about any aspect of the exam – and of course to provide the answers! Here is an example of a question and answer you might use.

Example

Q In Section B, do I spend an equal amount of time on the two answers?
A No! The first question in Section B is known as the ‘shorter writing task’ and you are advised to spend 25 minutes answering it. The second question is known as the ‘longer writing task’ and you should spend 35 minutes on it.

Note that you can’t just answer ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ to a question. You have to give some further detail to explain your answer.

Now see if you can come up with a further nine questions and answers. To help you think of them, here are some ideas about the English exam that you might use:

- timing (how long to spend on various questions)
- question types
- the ‘insert’ (containing the Reading texts)
- differences between Section A and Section B
- allocation of marks for questions
- what markers are looking for in answers.