

# Year 9 English & Careers Workbooklet

## Section 1: Protest Poetry

### Task 1: What is Protest?

- Write your own definition of the word ‘**protest**’.
- Why do people protest?
- Can you think of recent examples of protest in the news or in history?

### Task 2: Purpose of Protest Poetry

- What makes **poetry** an effective form of protest?
- How might it differ from a **speech**, a **poster**, or a **march**?

### Task 3: Delivering for Impact

Imagine you are performing a protest poem aloud.

- What techniques would you use to make your message powerful and emotional?
- Think about: **voice, pace, tone, pauses, emotion, body language**.

Write your answer here:

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### Task 4: Analysing Protest Poetry

Read the full poem “**Caged Bird**” by **Maya Angelou** below.

#### ***Caged Bird – Maya Angelou***

A free bird leaps  
on the back of the wind  
and floats downstream  
till the current ends  
and dips his wing

in the orange sun rays  
and dares to claim the sky.

But a bird that stalks  
down his narrow cage  
can seldom see through  
his bars of rage  
his wings are clipped and  
his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze  
and the trade winds soft through the sighing trees  
and the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright lawn  
and he names the sky his own.

But a caged bird stands on the grave of dreams  
his shadow shouts on a nightmare scream  
his wings are clipped and his feet are tied  
so he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings  
with a fearful trill  
of things unknown  
but longed for still  
and his tune is heard  
on the distant hill  
for the caged bird  
sings of freedom.

## Comprehension & Reflection Questions

1. What is the central message of the poem?
2. What do the “free bird” and “caged bird” symbolise?
3. How does Angelou explore the theme of **freedom vs oppression**?
4. What feelings does the poem evoke in you as a reader?

5. Can you think of a group of people or a situation today that feels like the “caged bird”?

### **Task 5: Write Your Own Protest Poem**

Choose an issue you care about. It could be (or a social justice issue of your choice):

- Climate change
- Gender inequality
- Racism
- Bullying
- Poverty
- Mental health
- Education

Write a **protest poem** expressing your message. Use:

- **Strong images**
- **Powerful language**
- **Emotion**
- **Metaphors or repetition**

Give your poem a title.

## **Section 2: Careers Exploration**

### **Task 1: What is a Career?**

- Write your own definition of a ‘**career**’.
- How is a career different from just having a job?
- Why do people plan their careers?

## Task 2: Labour Market Information (LMI)

- What is **Labour Market Information**?
- Why is it important when thinking about your future?
- Name 3 **growing job sectors** in the UK.

## Task 3: Apprenticeships

- What is an **apprenticeship**?
- How is it different from going to university?
- What are the **advantages and disadvantages**?
- Name 3 careers that offer apprenticeships.

## Task 4: Your GCSE Options

Answer the following:

1. Which GCSE subjects have you **chosen**?
2. **Why** have you chosen them?
3. Research your chosen subjects. What careers are linked to them?
4. Are there any subjects you wish you could study that weren't offered? Why?

## Task 5: Future You – Mind Map or Poster

Create a **visual map or poster** titled “**Future Me**”. Include:

- A job or industry you're interested in
- Subjects and skills you'll need
- Personal strengths you already have
- Inspirational role models or goals

## Task 6: Work Experience Preparation

**Work Experience Dates:** 29th June – 3rd July 2026

As a future **Year 10 pupil at Idsall School**, you will complete a **one-week placement**.

**Tasks:**

- Think of 2–3 places where you would like to do your placement.
  - Research whether they offer work experience.
  - Think about the skills or interests you could offer.
  - Record your top choice here:
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## Sample Email – Work Experience Enquiry

Use this model to write to an employer. Fill in the gaps with your information:

**Subject:** Work Experience Placement Enquiry – Year 10 (Idsall School)

Dear [Employer's Name],

My name is [Your Full Name] and I am currently a Year 9 student at Idsall School. I am writing to enquire about the possibility of doing a **work experience placement** with your organisation during the week of **29th June to 3rd July 2026**.

I am interested in this placement because [insert your reasons here].

I am planning to study the following subjects at GCSE:  
[Insert subjects here]

I am especially interested in [insert industry/career], and I believe a placement with your organisation would give me valuable experience and insight into the world of work.

I am a [mention qualities – e.g., hardworking, enthusiastic, organised] individual, and I would be very grateful for the opportunity to learn from your team.

Please let me know if this would be possible. I would be happy to provide any further details or complete a form.

Kind regards,  
[Your Full Name]