



# What and why

---

Our aim is to help you in your approach and understanding of academic material in any subject and gain more confidence.

---

**Almost all the words used will appear on GCSE exam papers.**

---


**Last year we began to broaden our lexicon by analysing one word every week. This year will be almost the same, but with a few guest words thrown in for good measure. This week's word comes from Mr. Curley.**

# *Recap*

The last word you looked at was  
Physiology.



Can you remember what word class  
Physiology is? Adjective, verb or noun?



Did you share your newfound  
knowledge with anyone?

***This week's word is...***

**Inscrutable**

**[in-skroo-tuh-buhl]**

# Word class and definitions

---

*adjective*

incapable of being investigated, analyzed, or scrutinized; impenetrable.

---

not easily understood; mysterious;  
unfathomable:*an inscrutable smile.*

---

incapable of being seen through physically;  
physically impenetrable:*the inscrutable depths of the ocean.*

---

# Root words

## In + scrutable

### **In**

a prefix of Latin origin which corresponds to the English *un-*, having a negative or privative force, freely used as an English formative, especially of adjectives and their derivatives and of nouns

### **scrutable**

*adjective*

capable of being understood by careful study or investigation.

# A bit more on the word 'in'

As a prefix, the word 'In' has a transformative effect on words. Usually creating an opposite or negative.

Think about the word *visible*, which simply means that it can be seen; if we had the prefix 'in' it becomes *invisible*, and thus changing the word completely to mean the opposite – cannot be seen.

*As a class, see how many words can be transformed by adding the prefix 'in'. Here's another to get you going....correct + in = incorrect 😊*

# Examples of *Inscrutable* used in sentences

She could tell nothing by his face, which was calm and inscrutable.

She has been watching the preceding incident with inscrutable eyes.

Jaska merely smiled her inscrutable smile, and did not answer.

His thin lips parted in a smile, whose meaning was inscrutable.

An *inscrutable* Obama looked back at Clarke, Klaidman writes, not betraying any emotion.



# Synonyms and origin

## Synonyms

•enigmatic

•impenetrable

•incomprehensib  
le

•unfathomable

•ambiguous

•inexplicable

•mysterial

•mystic

•poker-faced

•secret

•undiscoverable

•unexplainable

•unknowable

•unreadable

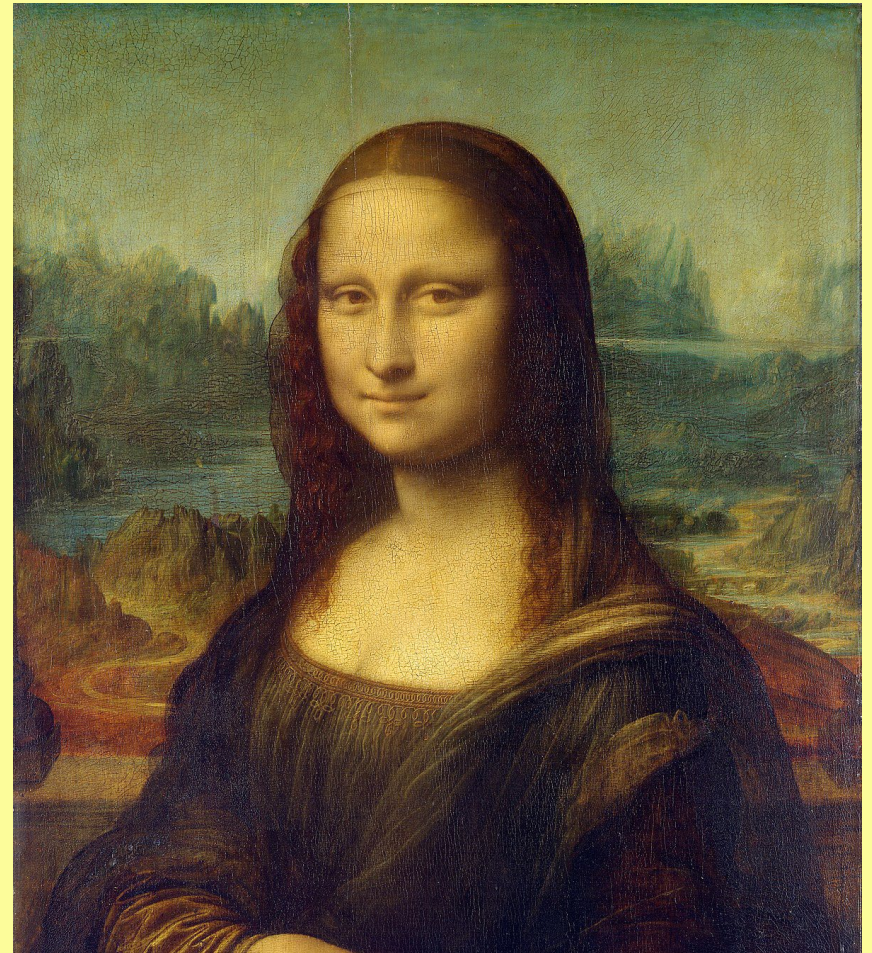
## Origin of the word

### ORIGIN OF INSCRUTABLE

First recorded in 1400–50;  
late Middle English word  
from Late Latin  
word *inscrūtābilis*, which  
means unknowable or  
entirely mysterious.

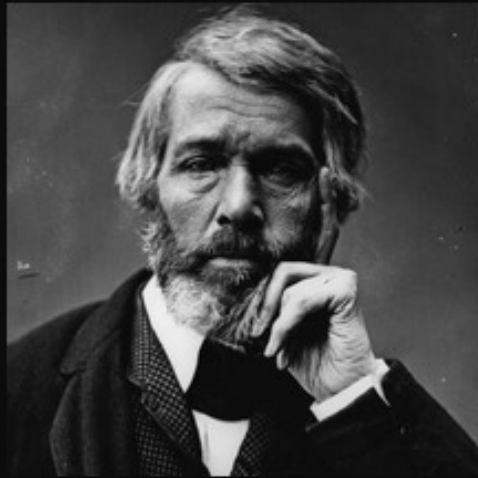
# The inscrutable face of Mona Lisa

The smile and gaze of the lady in the famous painting has mystified the world for hundreds of years. She is often described as *inscrutable* by observers who ruminate over who she was and what she is thinking in the painting.



Bonus question: Who painted the Mona Lisa?

Thomas Carlyle



This world, after all our science and sciences, is still a miracle; wonderful, inscrutable, magical and more, to whosoever will think of it.

AZ QUOTES

# Review



To cement what you have learned about the word **INSCRUTABLE**, you now need to tell someone in your house 3 things you have remembered.



***Research the word yourself. Write it down ten times to make sure you spell it correctly. Use it in your next piece of writing. Remember, if you find a topic or discussion inscrutable, raise your hand, ask questions, scrutinise it and enquire until it becomes scrutable***

# Inscrutable

Hopefully, you now have a deeper understanding of the word 'Inscrutable'.

Stay safe, wash your hands and keep learning!

