

## GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

### EXAM BOARD: AQA GCSE (9-1)

Year 11 students will study for **two GCSE qualifications** - one in English Language and one in English Literature. **Both GCSEs are 100% terminal exam.** Each GCSE requires students to sit two exam papers - four in total.

Students will be awarded 2 GCSE grades from 9 to 1 - with 9 being the highest grade (equivalent to A\*\*) and 1 the lowest (equivalent to the old GCSE grade G)

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

**Dates of Literature exams:**  
**Literature Paper 1: 22nd May**  
**Literature Paper 2: 25th May**

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th-century 1 hour and 45 minutes (50%)	GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry 2 hours and 15 minutes (50%)
<p>What's assessed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shakespeare play</li> <li>19<sup>th</sup> Century novel</li> </ul> <p>1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks 40% of GCSE</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Section A <u>Shakespeare</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</li> </ul> <p>Section 8 The 19th-century novel:</p>	<p>What's assessed?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Modern Prose or play</li> <li>The poetry anthology</li> <li>Unseen poetry</li> </ul> <p>2 hour 15 minutes 96 marks 60% of GCSE</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Section A Modern texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</li> </ul> <p>Section 8 <u>Poetry</u>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</li> </ul> <p>Section C Unseen poetry:</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Candidates will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem</li> </ul>

*Note: students cannot take any texts into the exam room!*

## GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

50% of the GCSE tests reading unseen texts from 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century  
50% of the GCSE tests writing - of which, 20% is SPAG so technical accuracy in the exam is vital.

### Exam dates:

Language Paper 1: 5th June

Language Paper 2: 8th June

<b>GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)</b>	<b>GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2 2 hours (50%)</b>
<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p><u>What's assessed?</u></p> <p>Section A: Reading 4 reading questions based on one literature fiction text (<i>unseen</i>) (40marks)</p> <p>Section B: Writing One descriptive or narrative writing task (40 marks)</p> <p>1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p>	<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p><u>What's assessed?</u></p> <p>Section A: Reading 4 question based on two non-fiction extracts (one 21st Century non-fiction text and one 19<sup>th</sup> literary non-fiction text) (40 marks)</p> <p>Section B: Writing One writing task in which candidate present a viewpoint (40 marks)</p> <p>1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE</p>

## GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### Spoken Language Endorsement

**Students will complete a presentation, take part in class discussions and demonstrate their ability to use Standard English effectively. Presentations will be recorded and sent to the exam board.**

**Students will be given either a pass, merit or distinction - these will appear on their final GCSE certificates.**

## How Can I Support my Child in English? A Parents' Guide



### Why is English important?

- A good English GCSE is required for college courses
- Most universities and employers demand GCSE English, often at grade 5 and above
- English teaches you vital life skills that give you confidence and an ability to communicate in a wide range of situations

### Getting the basics right

- ./ Develop a regular routine for working at home in a place free from distractions
- ./ Ensure your child is completing all homework
- ./ Look through their exercise book and talk about their work.
- ./ If they have been absent for any reason, check that they have caught up on missed work
- ./ Try to avoid saying "I was never any good at English" as this will lead them to believe there is no point trying  
- positive thinking and confidence enhances progress!

### How to revise?

Some people say "You can't revise for English" but this is not true!

1. Re-read the set Literature texts! Most of can be downloaded for free onto a tablet or smartphone using an app:
  - a. A Christmas Carol OR Pride and Prejudice (set 1 only)
  - b. An Inspector Calls
  - c. Romeo and Juliet
  - d. The AQA Conflict poetry anthology- [www.aqa.org.uk/English-e-library](http://www.aqa.org.uk/English-e-library)
2. Use self-quizzing to memorise information about texts (e.g. Romeo & Juliet) using 'knowledge organisers'
3. Create flashcards with questions on one side and answers on the other
4. Create quotation quiz questions on English Literature texts
5. Subscribe to English teachers' YouTube channels (e.g. Mr Bruff) and watch two videos each week.
6. Read for pleasure - challenging novels from different genres, plus non-fiction, e.g the Guardian
7. Be aware of your child's areas for development with SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) . Test them on the spellings they keep getting wrong.
8. Encourage your child to redraft/rewrite work following the advice given by the teacher- 'Raising your grade' work is imperative
9. Use websites to explore key topics, e.g. BBC Bitesize and Schmoop
10. Learn quotations by putting posters/post-it notes up around the house.

### Talking Together

- Ask your child to tell you new language terms they have learned in English and explain what they mean
- Get them to tell you what the book/play is about and what they find interesting about it.
- Read their creative writing pieces together and tell them what you like about them and how they could be improved