

English Language GCSE

What will students actually be tested on?

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing		
Paper 1 1 hour 45 mins 50% of your GCSE Date of Exam: Tuesday 6 th June	Section A: Reading Reading Extract from a Literature Text 25%	Section B: Writing Writing Narrative or Description based on a picture and linked to the reading theme in Section A 25%
	4 Questions to answer: 1 x 4 marks (short) Find 4 things 2 x 8 marks (longer) Language & Structure 1 x 20 marks (extended) Agree/Disagree Total Marks: 40	1 Question to write about: Extended Writing Based on a suggestion or Photograph 24 marks for Content 16 marks for accuracy Total Marks: 40
Writer's viewpoints and Perspectives		
Paper 2 1 hour 45 mins 50% of your GCSE Date of Exam: Monday 12 th June	Section A: Reading Reading two extracts – one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction texts. 25%	Section B: Writing Writing Non-Fiction to present a viewpoint linked to the theme of the texts in Section A 25%
	4 Questions to answer: 1 x 4 marks (short) True/False 1 x 8 marks (longer) Summary 1 x 12 (longer) Language 1 x 16 marks (extended) Comparison Total Marks: 40	1 Question to write about: Extended Writing Eg. Argue/Explain 24 marks for Content 16 marks for accuracy Total Marks: 40

What can parents do to help?

General:

- Help them to create a revision timetable
- Check that they have the correct revision notes and encourage them to speak to their teacher if they have any missing
- Make sure they have all the books that they need to complete the revision – buy additional revision guides if necessary
- Check how they are doing by asking them to explain something they have just revised
- Make sure they practise under timed conditions and with no distractions
- Download past papers and mark schemes from www.aqa.org.uk/exams-administration/exams-guidance/find-past-papers-and-mark-schemes

Reading:

- Encourage them to read – fiction and non-fiction such as newspapers, magazines, websites, etc.
- Buy a newspaper – talk about the contents.
- Create the reading space and insist on at least 10 minutes per day.
- Make the time to ask your children about their reading.
- You could even read the same articles or books and then discuss it with them, trying to draw out the main ideas/arguments of a piece and the writer's techniques. Let them teach you!

Writing:

- Help them to learn commonly misspelled words (see the list in their revision guide) using strategies such as read – write – check.
- Get them to check their writing when they have finished to ensure that it is as accurate as possible
- Have a dictionary for checking.
- Encourage them to realise that being good at reading and writing is a skill most people have to work at and they can improve...and will with your help.

Revision Guides:

- 📖 Collins: AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature: All-in-One Revision and Practice
- 📖 CGP: New GCSE English Language AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course
- 📖 CGP: New GCSE English Language AQA Workbook - for the Grade 9-1 Course
- 📖 Mr Bruff: ebook revision guides Revision Guides - £3.99 (Amazon)

Useful Websites:

- 📄 BBC Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- 📄 Geoff Barton – www.geoffbarton.co.uk (Student resources)
- 📄 Revision guide and youtube mini lessons - www.mrbruff.com and www.youtube.com
- 📄 Mr Bruff - Youtube mini lessons - www.youtube.com
- 📄 Mr Salles - Videos on Youtube
- 📄 Exam Board - www.aqa.co.uk (for information only)

English Literature GCSE

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Paper 1 1 hour 45 mins 40% of your GCSE Date of Exam: Monday 22 nd May	Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel	
	Section A: Shakespeare Macbeth 20%	Section B: 19th Century Novel Charles Dickens: A Christmas Carol 20%
	There will be an extract from your play printed in the Exam Paper along with a question to answer. Make sure you answer BOTH bullet points in the question. Total Marks: 34 (including 4 marks for technical accuracy)	There will be an extract from your novel printed in the Exam Paper along with a question to answer. Make sure you answer BOTH bullet points in the question. Total Marks: 30

Paper 2 2 hours 15 mins 60% of your GCSE Date of Exam: Friday 26 th May	Modern Texts and Poetry		
	Section A: Modern Text: Answer 1 Question from Section A Questions will be about: character, theme or dramatic technique (eg: tension) J. B. Priestley 'An Inspector Calls' 20%	Section B: Poetry Anthology: Answer 1 Question from Section B Power & Conflict cluster One poem will be printed in the exam. You compare it to another, from memory. 20%	Section C: Unseen Poetry: Answer BOTH Questions from Section C There will be 2 poems printed which you have never seen before. In Question 1, you have to respond to the 1 st poem. (24 Marks) In Question 2, you need to compare Poem 1 with Poem 2. (8 marks)
	Total Marks: 34 (including 4 marks for technical accuracy)	Total Marks: 30	Total Marks: 32

What can parents do to help?

Support your child in compiling and revising their literature notes. These can take whichever form the student prefers: mindmaps, flashcards, large posters.

For each of the three texts we have studied in class (Macbeth, An Inspector Calls and A Christmas Carol):

- Revise the plot – students need to be clear on all the events that happen and which order.
- Revise the characters – who is in the story? What are they like? How are they important? How do they change?
- Revise the themes – what are the main ideas which are written about? Why are these important? How do we see them referred to or demonstrated in the text?
- Revise the context (higher level) – what was life like in the time the text was written? What message was the writer communicating to their readers? Did they want to change something and if so, what?

To revise the poems from the 'power and conflict' cluster, students need the following for EVERY poem:

- What is each poem about?
- What is the poet's message?
- What imagery is used?
- How does the poet structure the piece to interest the reader?
- Which other poems in the cluster does this compare to?

Revision Guides:

- 📖 Collins: AQA GCSE English Language and English Literature: All-in-One Revision and Practice
- 📖 CGP: New GCSE English Literature AQA Revision Guide - for the Grade 9-1 Course
- 📖 CGP: Text guides and plays (available for: Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, A Christmas Carol, Poetry Cluster, Approaches to Unseen)
- 📖 York notes: available for all texts studied.

Useful Websites:

- 📖 BBC Bitesize – www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize
- 📖 Geoff Barton – www.geoffbarton.co.uk (Student resources)
- 📖 http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/
- 📖 <http://www.sparknotes.com/sparknotes/>
- 📖 <https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/english-literature-gcse-level>
- 📖 Exam Board- www.aqa.co.uk (for information only)