

**80% of pupils passed
English with a good
grade – way ahead of
the national average**

English Language and English Literature

We study AQA

Each pupil ends up with two qualifications

Paper 1: Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
What is assessed?	What is assessed?	What is assessed?
<p>Section A: Reading: (40 marks) (25%)– one single text</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) •2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) • 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) <p>One literature fiction text</p> <p>Section B: Writing: One piece of descriptive or narrative writing (40 marks) (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 	<p>Section A: Reading: (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) •2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) • 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) <p>One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text</p> <p>Section B: Writing Writing to present a Viewpoint (40 marks) (25%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presenting • responding to questions and feedback • use of Standard English
How is it assessed?	How is it assessed?	How is it assessed?
<p>Formal, externally set, written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks = 50% of GCSE</p>	<p>Formal, externally set, written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks = 50% of GCSE</p>	<p>Internal: Teacher set throughout course Initially marked by teacher – recorded on video Separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)</p>

What are the Language exams?

1. Time allowed

1 hours and 45 minutes (including 15 minutes to read the Source(s))

2. Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets. If a question is worth 4 marks, a student should spend no longer than 4 minutes answering. If a question is worth 20 marks, a student should try and write a detailed answer in just 20 minutes – leaving 5 minutes for checking each section.
- There are 40 marks for Section A and 40 marks for Section B.
- Students will be assessed on the quality of your **reading** in Section A.
- Students will be assessed on the quality of your **writing** in Section B.
- Students are marked on good English and clear presentation in their answers.

Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- The **aim** of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by:
- In section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers
- In section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

What is in the paper?

- The source for the reading questions will be a literature fiction text. It will be drawn from either the 20th or 21st century. Its genre will be prose fiction. It will include extracts from novels and short stories and focus on openings, endings, narrative perspectives and points of view, narrative or descriptive passages, character, atmospheric descriptions and other appropriate narrative and descriptive approaches.
- As a stimulus for students' own writing, there will be a choice of scenario, written prompt or visual image that is related to the topic of the reading text in section A. The scenario sets out a context for writing with a designated audience, purpose and form that will differ to those specified on Paper 2.

Language paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

- The **aim** of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by:
- In section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader
- In section B, producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A.

What is in the paper?

- The sources for the reading questions will be non-fiction and literary non-fiction texts. They will be drawn from the 19th century, and either the 20th or 21st century depending on the time period assessed in Paper 1 in each particular series. The combination selected will always provide students with an opportunity to consider viewpoints and perspectives over time. Choice of genre will include high quality journalism, articles, reports, essays, travel writing, accounts, sketches, letters, diaries, autobiography and biographical passages or other appropriate non-fiction and literary non-fiction forms.
- In section B, there will be a single writing task related to the theme of section A. It will specify audience, purpose and form, and will use a range of opinions, statements and writing scenarios to provoke a response.

How can you help?

- Read with your son/daughter – read the same texts, discuss it with them
- Read a quality newspaper - it doesn't have to be every day!
- Discuss articles with your son/daughter – can they see a point of view? How do they know if something is biased?

Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
What is assessed?	What is assessed?
<p>Section A: Shakespeare – ‘Macbeth’</p> <p>Students will answer one question on ‘Macbeth’. They will be required to write from the play and then to...</p> <p>Section B: The 19th-century novel</p> <p>Students will answer one question on ‘Christmas Carol.’ They will be required to write an extract from the novel...</p>	<p>Section A: Modern texts</p> <p>Students will answer one question on ‘Animal Farm/Lord of the Flies’.</p> <p>Section B: Poetry</p> <p>Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question on one poem from the anthology. They will be required to write this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>
How is it assessed?	How is it assessed?
<p>Formal written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE 	<p>Formal written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE

They are closed book exams – they do not have the texts with them. They MUST revise and LEARN quotations

Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
What is assessed?	What is assessed?
<p>Section A: Shakespeare – ‘Macbeth’</p> <p>Students will answer one question on the play they have studied – ‘Macbeth’. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B: The 19th-century novel – ‘A Christmas Carol’</p> <p>Students will answer one question on the novel they have studied: ‘A Christmas Carol.’ They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p>	<p>Section A: Modern texts – ‘An Inspector Calls/Animal Farm/Lord of the Flies’</p> <p>Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text</p> <p>Section B: Poetry – Cluster from Anthology</p> <p>Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C: Unseen poetry</p> <p>Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>
How is it assessed?	How is it assessed?
<p>Formal written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 64 marks• 40% of GCSE	<p>Formal written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96 marks• 60% of GCSE

Revision Tips

- For success in these terminal exams, students must know their set texts thoroughly. These should be re-read and students should annotate the texts for authorial intent and craft as well as for context and personal response.
- Many students have purchased workbooks and revision guides, which will be very helpful for revising as well. These are available from the school shop. They can also be purchased via Amazon and other retailers.
- Students should practise past exam questions as often as possible, making sure they answer in timed conditions and check their answers against the mark scheme and exemplar responses. — resources and past papers can be found there and at aqa.org.uk

But this is year 9....

- This is a bridge year.
- It is about skills and familiarity with some of the more dense texts, namely 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol.'
- Skills are taught through engaging texts such as 'Dracula' and 'Of Mice and Men'
- We return to the key texts in Year 10 and 11 but studying them in Year 9 enables us to return to them in a thematic and analytical way

Useful websites

- Exam board (AQA) = <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/gcse>
- www.mrbruff.com - This site is the official home of English teacher Andrew Bruff. The eBooks below have been written to accompany the YouTube videos which have now achieved over 9 million views across 212 different nations.
- <http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/>
- <http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/english/>
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize - Good resource for testing and revising. Lots of advice, video clips and practical exam tips.
- <http://english-igcse.wikispaces.com/> - For finding good non-fiction texts.
- www.youtube.com - Good resource for presentations on the poems we study and different writing styles.
- www.guardian.co.uk - Probably best newspaper resource online. Excellent preparation for your unseen non-fiction text. Also good way to brush up on argumentative writing, review writing and writing formal letters of complaint. All newspapers have online sites now and you should dip into these on a regular basis to get a flavour of stylistic features.
- www.nme.com - Teen mags are also online and again worth looking at for the style of writing.
- Sites for literature - texts for free
- You will find text files for classic texts at these sites:
- <http://www.gutenberg.org/>
- www.bartleby.com Bartleby Library
- www.bibliomania.com Bibliomania

How can you help?

- Encourage reading.
- Take an interest in their work
- If you can, get them a copy of the text.
- Encourage short, redrafted work.
- Encourage use of GCSE Pod and other resources given by the class teacher
- Encourage revision from their book!
- Read the texts they are studying – ask questions about it.
- Watch any film versions (after they have read the text!) and discuss the director's interpretations – is it the same as theirs? As yours?
- Use the revision guide – just buying them will not help....
- Keep reading!