



GCSE English Language and English Literature: The Big Picture



AQA English Language

Exams	Title of paper	What you have to do
Paper 1 * 50% of GCSE 1 hour 45 mins	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	Section A Reading: read one unseen** literature text and answer 4 questions on it. Section B Writing: descriptive or narrative writing.
Paper 2 50% of GCSE 1 hour 45 mins	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Section A Reading: read one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction text (both unseen) and answer four questions on them, including a comparison of the texts. Section B Writing: writing to present a viewpoint.

AQA English Literature

Exams	Title of paper	What you have to do
Paper 1 40% of GCSE (closed book***) 1 hour 45 mins	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Section A Shakespeare: answer one question on the play <u>Macbeth</u> . You will write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole. Section B The 19th-century novel: answer one question on the novel <u>A Christmas Carol</u> . You will write in detail about an extract from the novel and then write about the novel as a whole.
Paper 2 60% of GCSE (closed book) 2 hours 15 mins	Modern Texts and Poetry	Section A Modern Texts: answer one essay question on the play <u>An Inspector Calls</u> . Section B Poetry: answer one comparative question on one named poem and one other poem chosen from an anthology you have studied. Section C Unseen Poetry: answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

*You will be taking all of your English exams – all FOUR of them 😱 - at the end of Year 11

**All the reading you do in the English Language exams is unseen 🙄: this means that you will not have read it before and will be reading it for the first time in the exam. We prepare you for this by giving you lots and lots of practice at the kind of reading and responses you will have to do in the exam 😊

**The English Literature exams are closed book, meaning you do not have access to the texts you have studied in the exam. We will give you plenty of strategies for how to cope with writing an essay on a book you do not have in front of you!

Literature Set Texts (you will be able to buy these from school at a discount price)

An Inspector Calls: JB Priestley

A Christmas Carol: Charles Dickens

Macbeth: Shakespeare

AQA Poetry Anthology – Poems Past and Present cluster Power and Conflict

