

Key Stage 4

We follow the AQA GCSE course for Key Stage 4 English Language and English Literature. All students complete both qualifications.

The most important point to bear in mind is that a qualification in English is crucial for higher education and for many jobs. Students will study English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs).

We recommend the following book for all Year Groups:

Help Your Kids with English: A Unique Step-by-Step Visual Guide

ISBN: 978-1409314943

AQA GCSE English Language (8700)

The English Language GCSE consists of 2 papers that are 50% each. There is also a non-examination 'Spoken Language' element that is assessed by the class teacher. This accounts for 0% of the GCSE but acts as a separate endorsement for the candidate being awarded the GCSE.

Paper 1:

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. The written exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes, accounts for 80 marks and 50% of the GCSE.

Section A: Reading

One literature fiction text

Reading– one single text 40 marks (25%)

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Section B: Writing

Descriptive or narrative writing

- Writing (40 marks) (25%)
- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2:

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives and looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. The written exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes, accounts for 80 marks and 50% of the GCSE.

Section A: Reading

One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text.

- Reading (40marks) (25%) – two linked texts
- 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)

Section B: Writing

writing to present a viewpoint

- Writing (40 marks) (25%)
- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

This is set by the teacher throughout the course and is marked by the teacher. It is a separate endorsement and accounts for 0% of the GCSE. The areas assessed are:

(AO7–AO9)

- Presenting
- Responding to questions and feedback
- Use of Standard English

Topics Covered per Half Term

Term	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn 1	Paper 1, Fiction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions 1, 2 and 3. 	Paper 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and writing skills revision.
Autumn 2	Paper 1, Section A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question 4: Evaluation. 	Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading skills revision
Spring 1	Paper 1, Section B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing to Describe and Narrate. 	Whole Paper 2 revision.
Spring 2	Paper 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions 1, 2 and 3 • Reading Non-fiction 	Ongoing examination practice.
Summer 1	Paper 2, Question 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing non-fiction 	Ongoing examination practice.
Summer 2	Paper 2 Section B: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing from a viewpoint 	GCSE

AQA English Literature GCSE (8702)

English Literature GCSE is a closed book exam which is taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1

This is based on Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel and is assessed by a written exam which is 1 hour and 45 minutes, accounts for 64 marks and 40% of the GCSE.

Section A

- Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice (**'Romeo and Juliet'**). They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B

- The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice (**'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.

Paper 2

This is based on modern texts and poetry and is assessed by a written exam which is 2 hours and 15 minutes, accounts for 96 marks and 60% of the GCSE.

Section A

- Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text (**'An Inspector Calls'**).

Section B

- Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C

- Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

The following texts are studied for the English Literature GCSE:

- 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley
- 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare
- AQA Poetry Anthology: Love and Relationships

Topics Covered per Half Term

Term	Year 10	Year 11
Autumn 1	Introduction to Poetry. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practice Paper response to Paper 1, Q1, 2 and 3 Past exam question on 'Love and Relationships' poetry anthology. 	Ctd. Romeo and Juliet; poetry. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 1 questions; Romeo and Juliet extract-based timed assessment. Spoken Language assessment
Autumn 2	Ctd... A Christmas Carol and Poetry study. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Story/Description Comparative Poetry Response; Extract-based timed essay for 'A Christmas Carol'. 	Revision of 'A Christmas Carol' ; poetry study. ASSESSMENTS Whole Paper 2, Section A; extract-based essay on 'A Christmas Carol'. MOCK EXAMINATION
Spring 1	An Inspector Calls. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 2 Questions 1, 2, 3 timed response Essay on the presentation of characters in 'An Inspector Calls' 	Revision of all texts. Poetry Anthology to be completed. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole Paper 1
Spring 2	An Inspector Calls Study of Anthology Poetry. ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Writing to Argue; timed response to 'An Inspector Calls' Unseen Poetry response. 	Ongoing examination practice.
Summer 1	Romeo and Juliet ASSESSMENTS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper 2, Question 4 	Ongoing examination practice.
Summer 2	Romeo and Juliet Poetry revision. ASSESSMENTS	GCSE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paper 2 Section B; Romeo and Juliet examination question	
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