



# AQA English Language and English Literature GCSEs

# General points



- **All** pupils are now required to study both English Language **and** English Literature.
- English Language and English Literature are 100% examination qualifications with no option of Foundation or Higher Tier entry. All students sit the same exams and there is no Coursework or Controlled Assessment.
- English Literature exams are closed book, which means no texts allowed.
- SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation + Grammar) is worth 20% of the Language GCSE and carries a small weighting in Literature.

# Grades 9-1

## GCSE Grading

New Grading Structure      Old Grading Structure

9	A*
8	
7	A
6	B
5	
Standard Pass → 4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

# Structure of the exams



## English Language

### **Paper 1**                      **1 hour 45 minutes**

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

**Section A** – Reading – fiction

**Section B** – Writing – Descriptive or Narrative

### **Paper 2**                      **1 hour 45 minutes**

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

**Section A** – Reading – non-fiction

**Section B** – Writing to present a Point of View (Argue/Persuade)

## English Literature

### **Paper 1**                      **1 hour 45 minutes**

**Section A** – Shakespeare ('Macbeth')

**Section B** – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel ('A Christmas Carol')

### **Paper 2**                      **2 hours 15 minutes**

**Section A** – Modern Drama ('Blood Brothers')

**Section B** – Power and Conflict Poetry

**Section C** – Unseen poetry

# Supporting students at home...



Know when exams are:

- **13<sup>th</sup> May am** – English Literature Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins)
- **21<sup>st</sup> May am** – English Literature Paper 2 (2 hrs 15 mins)
- **2<sup>nd</sup> June am** – English Language Paper 1 (1 hr 45 mins)
- **5<sup>th</sup> June am** – English Language Paper 2 (1 hr 45 mins)

**Internal Mock Exams:**

- ***NOVEMBER: English Lang Paper 1 and English Lit Paper 2***
- ***MARCH: English Lang Paper 2 and English Lit Paper 1***

# Supporting students at home...



- **Re-read/re-watch set texts for Literature** – ‘Macbeth’, ‘A Christmas Carol’, ‘Blood Brothers’ and 15 Power and Conflict poems – discussing/making notes on different sections/chapters/themes/characters/context and learning key quotes.
- **Read a wide variety of non-fiction texts to prepare for Language Paper 2** – e.g. magazine and newspaper articles, leaflets, adverts, autobiographical/biographical writing (online or otherwise). As you read, consider the perspectives of the writers and language devices they use – why have they been used and what is the impact on the reader?
- **Make technical accuracy a real focus** – this will affect marks, especially English Language!

# Supporting students at home...



- **Keep up-to-date with homework** on Seneca Learning to continually revise/practise content.
- **We have nearly covered the content for all exams now, so create a revision timetable to begin revising the different papers/questions as soon as possible** by making flashcards, mindmaps, Powerpoints, or any other visual aids that are useful – this will ensure no ‘cramming’ at the end of the year.
- **Complete practice exam questions/papers** – concentrate on keeping to the timings given for these, especially as the year goes on, as time is a key factor in exams. Immediately act on marking and feedback given.
- **The CGP revision guides are good** and available on Amazon/from the school reception. There are also **useful websites**: [bbcbitessize.com](http://bbcbitessize.com); [englishbiz.co.uk](http://englishbiz.co.uk); [mrbruff](http://mrbruff.com) on [youtube.com](http://youtube.com); [sparknotes.com](http://sparknotes.com)