



AQA English Language and English Literature GCSEs

General points



- **All** pupils are 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
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6	B
5	
Standard Pass → 4	C
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3	D
	E
2	F
	G
1	
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Structure of the exams (prior to Covid changes)

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 ('Romeo and Juliet')

Section B – 19th Century Novel ('A Christmas Carol')

Paper 2 **2 hours 15 minutes**

Section A – Modern Drama ('An Inspector Calls')

Section B – Power and Conflict Poetry

Section C – Unseen poetry

Supporting students at home...



Know when internal exams are:

- **November Mock Exams commence Mon 15th Nov (for approximately 2 weeks)**

English Literature Paper 1

English Language Paper 1

- **March Mock Exams commence Mon 7th March (for approximately 2 weeks)**

English Literature Paper 2

English Lang Paper 2

Supporting students at home...



- **Read/watch/listen to set texts for Literature** – ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and ‘A Christmas Carol’ – discussing/making notes on different sections/chapters/themes/characters/context and learning key quotes.
- **Read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts to prepare for the Language Papers** – e.g. novels, short stories, magazine/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** set on Insight and Seneca Learning to continually revise/practise content.
- **As we revise content in school students can chunk their revision at home** by making flashcards, mindmaps, Powerpoints, or any other visual aids that are useful – this will ensure no ‘cramming’.
- **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**:
bbcbitesize.com; englishbiz.co.uk; mrbruff on youtube.com; sparknotes.com; as well as online lessons from Oak Academy.