AQA GCSE English Language (8700)

Unit 1: Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading

Unit 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

1 hour 45 minutes 2nd June 2020

External Exam: Worth 50% of the final GCSE English Language grade

Section A: Reading

- Four questions on one unseen fiction text
- There will be 1 multiple choice and 3 extended writing answers.

Section B: Writing

 One extended *creative* writing question. This will be marked out of 24 for content and out of 16 for technical accuracy.

1 hour 45 minutes 2nd June 2020

External Exam: Worth 50% of the final GCSE English Language grade

Section A: Reading

- Four questions on two unseen non-fiction texts
- There will be 1 multiple choice and 3 extended writing answers.

Section B: Writing

- One extended *non-fiction* writing question. This will be marked out of 24 for content and out of 16 for technical accuracy.

English Language Mock Exam Dates

English Language Paper One: February 2020
 English Language Paper Two: 31st March 2020

Free online resources:

- Knowledge Organisers
- BGS Google Classroom contains lessons and revision resources
- Flipboard, BBC news and The Guardian for reading material because they are free
- BBC Bitsize for AQA English Language
- Mr Bruff AQA English Language videos











Revision Guides:

- CGP English Language for Grade 9-1 Exams
- AQA GCSE English Language: Student Book: Developing the skills for Learning and Assessment (Oxford)
- Revise AQA GCSE (9-1) English
 Language Practice Papers (Pearson)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (fiction extract)

					_		
Focus	Question	Requirement	Marks	Timing	Sources		
	Reading time 5 minutes						
Reading	1	Four things you learn	4	5	Source A (opening)		
	2	Language analysis	8	10	Source A (extract)		
	3	Structure	8	10	Source A (whole text)		
	4	Language analysis/ evaluates	20	30	Source A (second ½ of extract)		
Writing	5	Describe: picture	24: content 16: SPaG	45 min	N/A		

Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives (non-fiction extracts A&B)

Focus	Question	Requirement	Marks	Timing	Sources			
Reading	1	Four things you learn	4	5	Source A (opening)			
		Reading Time 5 minutes						
	2	Summarise differences with quotes	8	15 (reading time inc)	Source A and Source B			
	3	Language analysis	12	15	Source B			
	4	Compare language	16	20	Source A and Source B			
Writing	5	Argue or persuade	24: content 16: SPaG	45 min	N/A			

Reading Exam Top Tips	Writing Exam Top Tips
- The exam requires students to read and	- Whereas the reading part of the GCSE
respond to short texts very quickly	English Language exam has its challenges, the
- Reading a range of texts – not necessarily	writing part of the exam is worth 50% and
novels – will help students to grow more	offers students the opportunity gain valuable
confident with reading short texts	marks
- The exam requires students to answer a	- Students can use resources such as
range of questions with a very limited	Knowledge Organisers to practice writing in
amount of time	form (newspaper/ letter/ blog) and purpose
- Knowing the <i>specific</i> requirements of each	(argue, persuade/ explain)
question and how long they have to	Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SpaG)
complete their response is crucial to their	- Students should revise punctuation:
success	particularly colons and semi colons. YouTube
- The difficulty many students face with the	is a great resource for this.
English Language exam is the time restraints	- Students can revise frequently misspelt
- Practicing reading short texts and planning	<u>words</u>
responses to these texts will help students	- Write responses based on past paper
grow more confident when approaching the	questions (see AQA website) or in response to
exam.	articles they have read
	- Students should look to imitate things they
	read: they are demonstrating skill and not
	necessarily originality

AQA GCSE English Literature (8702)

Unit 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th	Unit 2: Modern texts and poetry
Century Novel 1 hour 30 minutes	2 hours 15 minutes
13 th May 2020	21 st May 2020
External Exam: Worth 40% of the final	External Exam: Worth 60% of the final
GCSE English Language grade	GCSE English Language grade
Section A: Shakespeare	Section A: Modern Texts
- One question on the play studied	- Students will answer one essay
(Macbeth). Students will be required to	question on An Inspector Calls
write in detail about an extract from the	Section B: Comparative Poetry
play and the play as a whole.	- Students will answer one question
Section B: 19th Century Novel	which asks them to compare two
- One question on A Christmas Carol.	poems. One poem will be printed: the
Students will be required to write in	other will not.
detail about an extract from the novel	Section C: Unseen Poetry
and then the novel as a whole.	- Students answer one question on an
	unseen poem followed by another
	question asking them to compare this

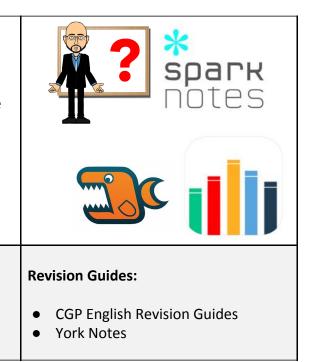
English Literature

English Language Paper One: December mock exam
English Language Paper Two: December mock exam

Free online resources:

There are a wide range of English Literature resources available online

- Spark Notes
- Spark Notes: No Fear Shakespeare
- GCSE Bitesize
- LitCharts
- Schmoop
- Universal Teacher
- Mr Bruff (YouTube)



to a second unseen poem.



Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

Focus	Question	Requirement	Marks	Timing	Sources
Section A: Shakespeare	1	- Explore the focus of the extract analysing	30 marks + 4 SPaG	52 min	Extract
Macbeth		the language - Explore the focus of the extract elsewhere in the play			Remembered quotes from elsewhere in the play
Section B: 19 th Century	7	- Explore the focus of the extract analysing	30 marks	52 min	Extract
novel		the language - Explore the focus of			Remembered quotes from
A Christmas Carol		the extract elsewhere in the play			elsewhere in the novel

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

Focus	Question	Requirement	Marks	Timing	Sources
Section A: An Inspector Calls	1 or 2	Essay style answer exploring theme, character or dramatic devices	30 marks + 4 SPaG	45 min	CLOSED TEXT
Section B: Poetry (Power and Conflict)	26	Compare language used in two poems from the anthology	30 marks	45 min	CLOSED TEXT One poem will be reprinted in exam, one will not
Section C: Unseen	27.1	Language analysis of unseen poem	24	30 min	Poem printed in exam

27.2	Compare similarities	8	15 min	Poem printed
	and differences in			in the exam
	unseen poems			

Revision Tips

- The exam requires students to complete the exam WITHOUT copies of the text which requires them to learn quotations
- Students should re-read the exam texts to re-familiarize themselves with the texts: re-reading the texts is not revision
- Return to texts sooner rather than later and then return to them again rather than 'cram'
- Students should look to learn quotations rather than try to remember whole sections of texts or even whole poems
- Students should begin revision by identifying the ten most important quotations for key characters and themes: before long it will become apparent that valuable quotations reappear over and over
- Create flash cards or mind-maps of key quotations linked to themes: these can be used for making links across texts/ between poems
- Plan responses to a range of questions rather than write whole answers: this helps you to revise whole texts rather than practice limited responses