

GCSE English Language - Useful Information

English Language AQA 8700

Revision Guides for English Language

CGP - These guides have been available from the Finance Office and available from the library.

Other revision guides are also available from the library.

Revision guides are also available for purchase. Collins, Oxford University Press and Cambridge University Press publish revision guides. Look for a sign which indicates it is endorsed by AQA.

Useful resources for English Language can be found here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/education/examspecs/zcbchv4>

Mr Bruff also produces clear and thorough Youtube tutorials. Resources for English Language can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff/playlists>

Seneca is a thorough and more engaging resource: <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Question Type and Timing Advice for English Language Papers:

Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Total time = 1 hour 45 minutes

This paper will feature a 20th or 21st century fiction text.

Question and approach	Marks available	Suggested timing
Readthroughthe whole of the extract		Spend approximately 10 minutes reading ET 12.5 minutes
Question1: Information Retrieval	4 marks	Spend approximately 5 minutes answering ET 6.25 minutes
Question2: Language Analysis	8 marks	Spend approximately 10/12 minutes answering ET 12.5/15 minutes
Question3: Structure Analysis	8 marks	Spend approximately 10 minutes answering ET 12.5/15 minutes
Question4: Critical Evaluation	20 marks	Spend approximately 20 minutes answering ET 25 minutes
Question5: Creative Writing	40 marks 24marks for Content and Organisation 16 marks for Technical Accuracy	Spend approximately 45 minutes answering ET 56 minutes

Paper 2 Viewpoints and Perspectives Total Time = 1 hour and 45 minutes

This paper will feature 20th or 21st and 19th century non-fiction texts

Question and approach	Marks available	Suggested timing
Read through both extracts which will be examples of non-fiction texts		Spend approximately 10 minutes reading ET 12.5 minutes
Question 1: Information Retrieval	4 marks	Spend approximately 5 minutes answering ET 6.25 minutes
Question 2: Summarising and comparing two texts	8 marks	Spend approximately 12 minutes answering ET 15 minutes
Question 3: Language Analysis	12 marks	Spend approximately 15 minutes answering ET 19 minutes
Question 4: Critical Evaluation	16 marks	Spend approximately 18 minutes answering ET 22.5 minutes
Question 5: Creative Writing	40 marks 24 marks for Content and Organisation 16 marks for Technical Accuracy	Spend approximately 45 minutes answering ET 56 minutes

Past papers, for exam practice, can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature AQA 8702

The students have studied:

a Shakespeare Text (either 'Romeo and Juliet' or 'Macbeth')

a 19th century novel (either 'A Christmas Carol' or 'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde')

'An Inspector Calls'

Relationships Cluster AQA Poetry Anthology plus unseen poetry

Revision Guides and text guides:

CPG revision guides have been available from the Finance Office and are available from the library. Sparknotes is also a useful free on-line revision guide which covers most texts:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/>

BBC Bitesize is another source of information: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>

Seneca is a thorough revision resource: <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Mr Bruff also produces clear and thorough Youtube tutorials on the texts taught at GCSE:

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff/playlists>

English Literature Paper 1 Useful Revision Resources

'Macbeth': <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cMPq89C0yaU5scvuYiIKuL>

'Romeo and Juliet': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TSE04T8fcts&list=PLqGFsWf-P-cB7YAoARj6iAFCglAfy9aN2>

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cD6Q25r3wSEIHP6JIU8UK-f>

'A Christmas Carol': <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cBhNFIdX59nQmTodoDmDQsh>

English Literature Paper 2 Useful Revision Resources

'An Inspector Calls': <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cDvuiSH8SycEDh1Ugke9tmb>

Love and Relationships Poetry Cluster: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqGFsWf-P-cCXUGVdlZbMcTEOTO5H7Xho>

The following resource is most suitable for those students targeted to achieve the highest grades:

<https://madameanglaise.wordpress.com/love-and-relationships-poetry/>

The following resources would be useful for practising responses to the unseen poetry questions:

<https://poemanalysis.com/>

Question Type and Timing Advice for English Literature Papers

English Literature Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
What's assessed? Shakespeare – Either 'Macbeth' or 'Romeo and Juliet' The 19th-century novel – Either 'A Christmas Carol' or 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'
How it's assessed • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE
Section A - Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Students should spend about 50 minutes on Question 1 and students with extra time should spend 62 minutes. There are 34 marks available.
Section B - The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. An ability to refer to quotations from across the play will enhance the quality of the answer. Students should spend about 50 minutes on Question 2 and students with extra time should spend 62 minutes. There are 30 marks available.

English Literature Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
What's assessed? Modern texts – 'An Inspector Calls' or 'Blood Brothers' Poetry – poems from the relationship cluster Unseen poetry
How it's assessed • written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE
Section A - Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. Students should spend about 45 minutes answering this question and students with extra time should spend 56 minutes. There are 34 marks available. Students will need to recall quotations from the play.
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. Students should spend about 45 minutes answering this question and students with extra time should spend 56 minutes. There are 30 marks available. Students will need to recall quotations from all of the poems.
Section C - Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. There are 24 marks available for the first question in this section and students should spend about 5 minutes reading the poem and 25 minutes writing their response and students with extra time should spend 37 minutes in total on this question. There are 8 marks available for the second question in this section. Students should spend about 5 minutes reading the poem and 10 minutes writing their response and students with extra time should spend 18 minutes in total on this question.

5% of the marks are for written accuracy. This is assessed in Question 1 of both Paper 1 and 2.

Past papers for exam practice can be found here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>