



GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (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)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)



Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

What's assessed

(AO7–AO9)

presenting

responding to questions and feedback

use of Standard English

Assessed

teacher set throughout course

marked by teacher

separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)





GCSE English Literature

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment. All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

Shakespeare plays
The 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
64 marks
40% of GCSE

Questions

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.

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.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

Modern prose or drama texts
The poetry anthology
Unseen poetry

How it's assessed

written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
96 marks
60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

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.

