



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE:
"An exploration of humanity. Communicate
powerfully: read critically, write
passionately and speak purposefully."



What is it?

Two papers. Equally weighted. One GCSE.

Both 1hr 45mins and each consist of a reading section (40 marks) and a writing section (40 marks).

What are the two papers?

Paper 1 is on "Creative Texts" and has a focus on fiction – understanding how authors create meaning, both with language and structure, is essential here.

You'll also need to respond creatively yourself – though beware, there are 16/40 marks for technical accuracy. Paper 2 is all about "Viewpoints and Perspectives" from different centuries on a connecting theme.

What do you do when?

You will look at creative writing in the first term, and viewpoint writing in the second (alongside your literature work)

You will do a complete Paper 1 at the end of Year 10, before we do a mock for each of the papers in Year 11.

What can be done at home to help?

Read widely. The more rounded your reading, the more comfortable you will be in the exam when you read the extract.

Make sure you revise what each of the questions requires you to do.

Annotate extracts, plan your responses and practise your skills in timed conditions.

PAPER 1: Creative Texts

Question 1 – LIST 4 THINGS

- 4 marks
- <5 minutes
- 4 simple, clear statements
- Full sentences

Question 2 – LANGUAGE

- 8 marks
- 10 - 15 minutes
- Choose 2-3 precise details to examine
- Say a lot about a little (layers of meaning)
- Identify language methods

Question 3 – STRUCTURE (always "interests")

- 8 marks
- 10-15 minutes
- Aim for 3 points
- Identify structural techniques (opening, turning points, character changes/development, linked opening and closing)
- Talk about the whole text and quote – why here and why now?

Question 4 – OPINIONS/EVALUATE

- 20 marks
- 20+ minutes
- Remember to evaluate
- Develop an opinion, use quotations, evaluate impact of writer's choices
- What do you think? Why? How is it shown?

Section B: WRITING

MARKS: 40 (inc. 16 SPaG)

TIME: 45 MINS

- Use image as stimulus
- Use language to suit purpose and audience (describe)
- Ambitious vocabulary and structural choices
- 16 marks for technical accuracy so pay particular attention and proof read
- 5+ types of punctuations
- Strong opening and closing



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PAPER 2: VIEWPOINTS and PERSPECTIVES

Q1 – Read first part of Source A only

Identify 4 correct statements and shade the boxes **4 MARKS (5 mins)**

Q2 – Refer to both Source A and Source B

Summarise the differences between the information presented in the sources

- **Infer meaning** and interpret information
- **Use quotes from both sources** to support ideas

NO LANGUAGE ANALYSIS REQUIRED

8 MARKS (10 mins)

Q3 – Refer to Source B, specific lines given only

Explain how the writer uses language to achieve effects and influence the reader

- **Use quotes** to support ideas
- Use correct **subject terminology** to identify methods/techniques

12 MARKS (15 mins)

Q4 – Refer to both Source A and Source B

Compare writers’ ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two texts.

- **Compares** ideas and perspectives
- Explains how **writer’s methods** are used
- **Use quotes from both sources** to support your ideas
- **Show understanding of different** ideas and perspectives in both sources, considering when the texts were written and how this might be relevant

16 MARKS (25 mins)

Q5 – Viewpoint Writing (45 mins)

Identify **PURPOSE, FORM and AUDIENCE**

AO5: Content and organisation **(24 marks)**

Relevant, detailed and connected ideas.

Clearly structured (paragraphs).

Vocab and language devices.

AO6: Technical accuracy **[16 marks]**

Range of sentences, punctuation and vocab.



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE:

“An exploration of humanity. Communicate powerfully: read critically, write passionately and speak purposefully.”



What is it?

Two papers. One GCSE.

Tests your ability to interpret texts and form an argument with references to the text (AO1), your analysis of a writer's methods (AO2) and your awareness of what the writer is trying to communicate (AO3 – bigger picture ideas that could link to contextual factors)

What are the two papers?

For Paper 1, Shakespeare and the 19th century novel, you will be studying *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Christmas Carol* and for Paper 2, Modern texts and Poetry, you will be looking at *An Inspector Calls/Animal Farm/Blood Brothers* and a collection of poems on 'Power and Conflict' from the AQA anthology, before challenging the unseen poems.

What do you do when?

We will look at all of the texts for this exam in Year 10, completing two assessments for each topic, before returning to Paper 1 at the end of the year for your literature mock. We'll also return to the texts in Year 11 so they are fresh in your mind for the exams.

You'll do a Paper 2 mock in Year 11 before Christmas and another literature mock in March.

What can be done at home to help?

Know your texts! (Re-read or watch a performance of them)

Create cue cards / mind maps / revision posters for plot, character and theme, including key references.

Practise planning, writing and even creating essay questions.

PAPER 1: SHAKESPEARE AND 19th CENTURY NOVEL

1 hour 45 minutes

SECTION A:

Romeo and Juliet passage based question **[30 marks + 4 QWC]**

SECTION B:

A Christmas Carol passage based question **[30 marks]**

PAPER 2: MODERN TEXTS AND POETRY

2 hours 15 minutes

SECTION A: (45 mins)

Choice of modern text questions (character or theme) **[30 marks + 4 QWC]**

SECTION B: (45 mins)

Poetry comparison (printed named poem and titles and poets to help your choice) **[30 marks]**

SECTION C: (30+15 mins)

Unseen poetry response (no AO3). **[24 marks]**

Unseen poetry comparison of **methods** (just AO2) **[8 marks]**