



GCSE English Literature



Key information about English Literature GCSE

- English Literature is a statutory GCSE – all students must take it
- Examination board – AQA – please find information on the specification using this link: [AQA | GCSE | English Literature | Specification at a glance](#)
- Students are assessed by 100% examination at the end of the course. There is no longer any coursework component.
- In GCSE English Literature our pupils will study the following texts over the two years:
 - Poetry (Anthology – Power and Conflict)
 - Unseen Poetry
 - *An Inspector Calls* (Modern Text)
 - *Macbeth* (Shakespeare)
 - *A Christmas Carol* (19th Century Novel)

English Literature Paper 1 (40% of the total grade)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
What's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakespeare plays• The 19th-century novel
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes• 64 marks• 40% of GCSE
Questions <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

English Literature Paper 2 (60% of the total grade)

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.

Weighting of assessment objectives for GCSE English Literature

Assessment objectives (AOs)	Component weightings (approx %)		Overall weighting (approx %)
	Paper 1	Paper 2	
AO1	15	22.5	37.5
AO2	15	27.5	42.5
AO3	7.5	7.5	15
AO4	2.5	2.5	5
Overall weighting of components	40	60	100

Assessment weightings

The marks awarded on the papers will be scaled to meet the weighting of the components. Students' final marks will be calculated by adding together the scaled marks for each component. Grade boundaries will be set using this total scaled mark. The scaling and total scaled marks are shown in the table below.

Component	Maximum raw mark	Scaling factor	Maximum scaled mark
Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	64	x1	64
Modern texts and poetry	96	x1	96
		Total scaled mark:	160

Useful resources

- ✓ **Seneca** [Free Homework & Revision for A Level, GCSE, KS3 & KS2 \(senecalearning.com\)](https://www.senecalearning.com)
- ✓ **BBC Bitesize** [GCSE English Literature - AQA - BBC Bitesize](https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/gcse/english/literature/aqa)
- ✓ **Physics and Maths Tutor (past papers)** [AQA Paper 1 GCSE English Literature Past Papers \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/aqa-paper-1-gcse/english-literature/past-papers/) and [AQA Paper 1 GCSE English Literature Past Papers \(physicsandmathstutor.com\)](https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/aqa-paper-1-gcse/english-literature/past-papers/)