

# GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Course:** New Specification with first examinations in 2017. 2 separate GCSEs in English Language and English Literature (students must do both)

**Online specification link:**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700> - English Language

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702> - English Literature

**Units covered:**

## English Language

**Exam Paper 1:** Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 mins and 80 marks

**Exam Paper 2:** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 mins and 80 marks

**Speaking and Listening Presentation:** Internally assessed

## English Literature

**Exam Paper 1:** Shakespeare (*Macbeth*) and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel (*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*) – 1 hr and 45 mins and 64 marks

**Exam Paper 2:** Modern Texts (*An Inspector Calls*) and poetry (A selection from the AQA Anthology Power and Conflict) – 2 hours and 15 mins and 96 marks

**The exams – this is a new specification and so there are no past papers. Students will be given a range of resources in lessons and also to help them study at home.**

## Language

- Paper 1: Section A Reading. Students will answer four questions ranging from 4 to 20 marks about an unseen fiction text from the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will know in advance the focus for each question. Section B Writing. Students will write their own extended description or narrative. They will have a choice of 2 tasks.
- Paper 2: Section A Reading. Students will answer four questions ranging from 4 to 16 marks about two unseen non fiction texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century. They will know in advance the focus for each question. Section B Writing. Students will write an extended piece expressing their own point of view on the given topic.

## Literature

- Students cannot take copies of the texts into the exam
- Paper 1: *Macbeth* and *Jekyll and Hyde* questions will have an extract from the text. They will be required to write in detail about the extract and link it to what happens in the rest of the text. They must refer to incidents/quotations from memory. Their answers should take around 45- 50 minutes each
- Paper 2 Section A: For *An Inspector Calls* there will be a choice of 2 questions. Students will not have an extract from the text but must be able to refer to incidents/quotations from memory. Their answer should take around 45 mins.
- Paper 2 Section B and C: For poetry students will be given one poem from the anthology they have studied but must link this to a second poem from memory. A second question will ask them to explore 2 poems they haven't seen before.

### Teacher details:

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English Language Paper 1: 6<sup>th</sup> June

English Language Paper 2: 12<sup>th</sup> June

English Literature Paper 1: 22<sup>nd</sup> May

English Literature Paper 2: 26<sup>th</sup> May

## How could students prepare for their examinations?



- Study guides for An Inspector Calls, Macbeth and Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde are available to purchase for the bargain price of £7 for all 3. Students should take the money to the finance office who will then issue a receipt. They should take their receipt to Mrs Claydon or another English teacher at break or lunchtime and you will be given all 3 study guides.
- Homework is regularly set where students will be asked to complete practice questions, research and read or create revision resources to help them consolidate their understanding
- The English department will issue students with our own revision guides for the language and literature exams. We are also arranging a variety of revision sessions for groups of students
- Year 11 students will sit English and Maths exams in school on Tuesday afternoons during period 5 from 4<sup>th</sup> October
- Excellent revision resources for all aspects of GCSE English Language and Literature can be found at [www.mrbruff.com](http://www.mrbruff.com) which links to his dedicated YouTube channel and e-books
- Clear and concise summaries of all key GCSE literature texts can also be found at [www.litcharts.com](http://www.litcharts.com)