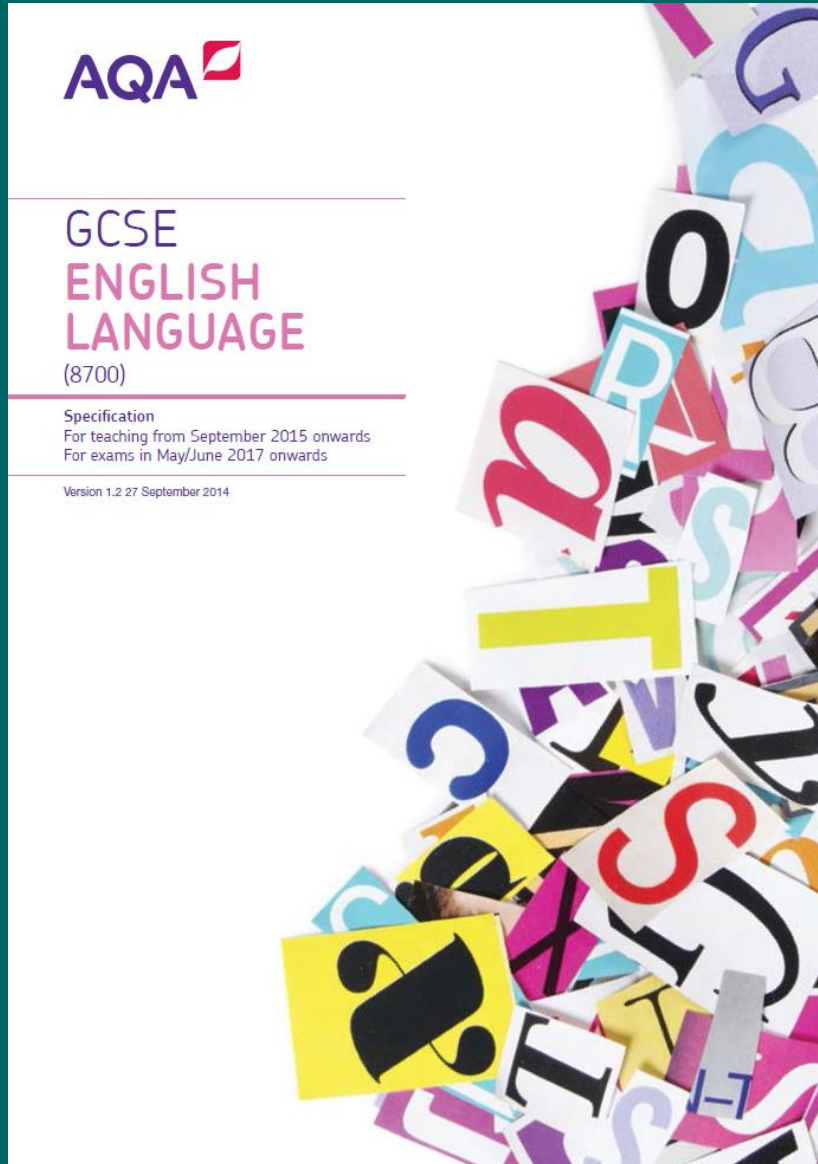


Supporting Achievement in English 2023-24



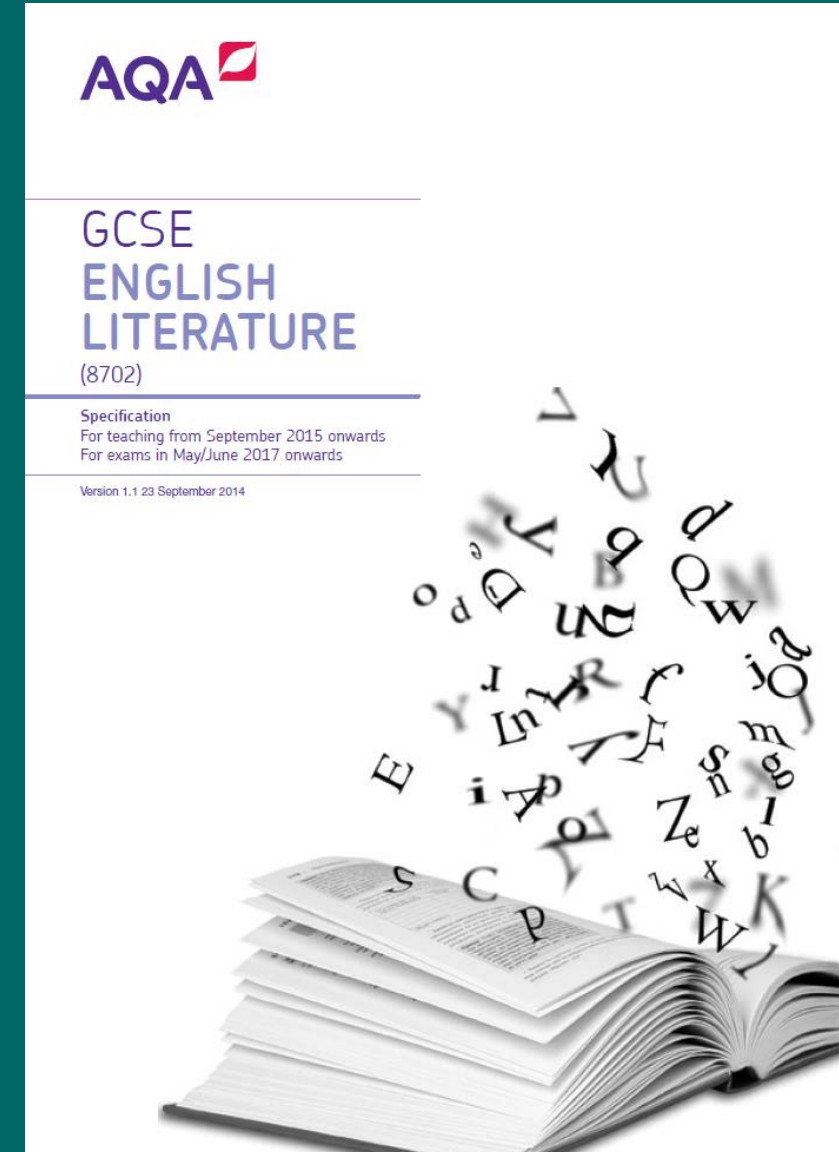
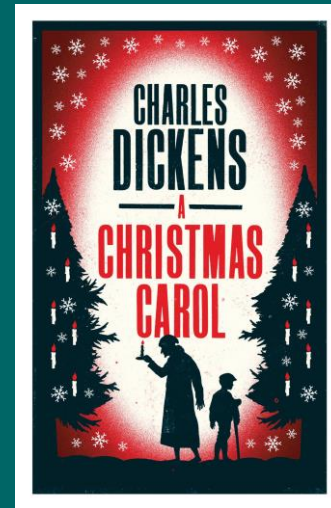
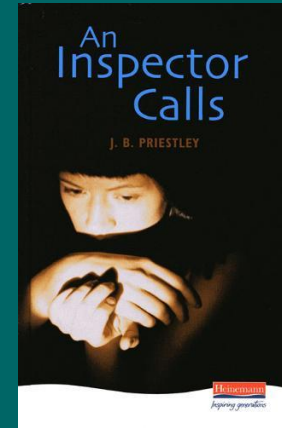
AQA

**GCSE
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**
(8700)

Specification
For teaching from September 2015 onwards
For exams in May/June 2017 onwards

Version 1.2 27 September 2014

The cover features a background of scattered, colorful letters and symbols, including a large yellow exclamation mark.



AQA

**GCSE
ENGLISH
LITERATURE**
(8702)

Specification
For teaching from September 2015 onwards
For exams in May/June 2017 onwards

Version 1.1 23 September 2014

The cover features a background of scattered letters and symbols, with an open book at the bottom.

Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

What is
Assessed?

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	+	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	+	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">one literature fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">descriptive or narrative writing		What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none">one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none">writing to present a viewpoint		What's assessed (AO7–AO9) <ul style="list-style-type: none">presentingresponding to questions and feedbackuse of Standard English
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes80 marks50% of GCSE		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes80 marks50% of GCSE		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">teacher set throughout coursemarked by teacherseparate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)



Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

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



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

- Paper 1 requires students to read and unpick a fiction text. Reading fiction (novels and short stories) at home will help to develop these skills.
- Paper 2 is a challenging paper. Students need to read and understand two non-fiction texts, one of which is from the 19th century. Developing reading skills is essential. Reading non-fiction texts at home will help with this. Newspaper articles, readily available on line or in print, are a good place to start. Try to discuss the content with your child.
- Both papers have a strong focus on writing skills. There is more emphasis on spelling, grammar and punctuation in the assessment. Online tutorials will help students revise this e.g. BBC Bitesize.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE



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)

- This assessment is not weighted, meaning that the mark students get does not count towards their final GCSE grade.
- Students are still required to complete this as part of their Language GCSE.
- Students get a mark of **pass, merit or distinction**.
- Students write and perform a speech to an audience of their peers.
- This can be done at any time during the course.

What is
Assessed?

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.



What is
Assessed?

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.

What texts
do we
study?

Literature Paper 1 (choose any two topics)

Shakespeare

All students will study **Macbeth**

It is a good idea to buy a copy of this play for use in class.

19th century novel

All students have studied **A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.**

We asked students earlier in the year to get their own copies of this (available cheaply online)

Literature Paper 2 (whole paper compulsory)

Section A: Modern Text

All students will study a modern text in Year 11.
This text is:

An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley

Section B

Anthology of poetry.

Your child will be given an anthology of poems to study.

They will study this cluster of poems:

- **Power and Conflict**

They will study 15 poems in total.

Section B

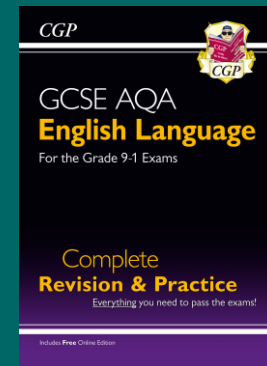
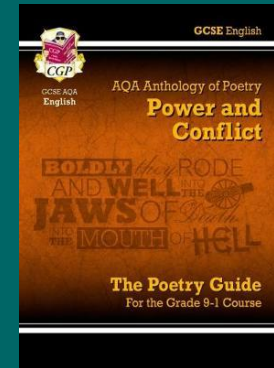
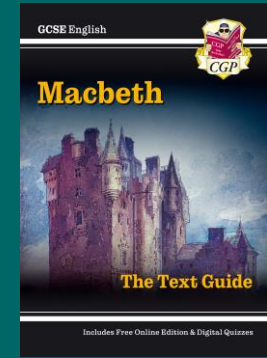
Part 1: unseen poetry essay

Part 2: unseen poetry comparison

Students will not see these poems until the exam.

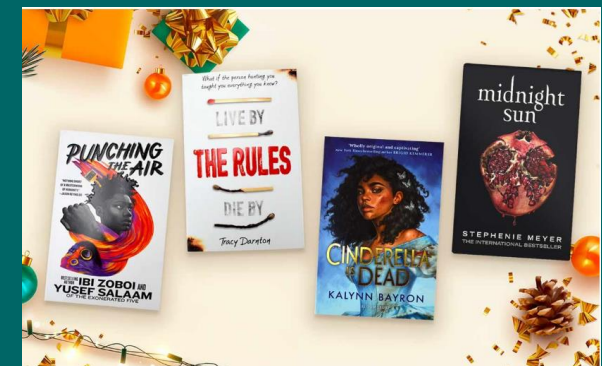
What you can do to support your child.

- Discuss the books and poems that they study with them! Ask them what their favourites are and why. Ask them about the writers' purpose and the context they were written in. Discussion with your child will help them to engage better with the often complex texts.
- Go and see productions with them if you can. This can bring the text to life. We are hosting a theatre company here at Millais who will perform A Christmas Carol.
- Class materials are uploaded to Teams. This means that if your child misses a lesson, they can easily catch up. Taking the time to catch up on work missed is vital as every lesson covers exam content.
- Students aren't able to take the texts they study into the exam, which means that they have to know the texts well and learn key quotations. Revision is hugely important.
- There are a range of online resources that can help your child, including YouTube tutorials. Mr Bruff and the Oak National Academy are good places to start.
- If you would like to buy revision guides we recommend CGP guides. Our exam board is AQA.
- If your child is finding something difficult, please encourage them to talk to their teacher in the first instance, who will be happy to help.
- The English department run fortnightly SPAs (Supporting Pupil Achievement). Students can go along and get some extra work and discuss anything with their teachers.



What you can do to support your child to read.

- “A study of 370,000 secondary school students who sat GCSEs in 2018-19 found a significant correlation between students' reading ability and their eventual performance across all GCSEs. There was a strong correlation between students' literacy levels and their performance in English language GCSE, and an almost as strong relationship between students' reading levels and performance in maths and science qualifications.” (TES, Feb 2020)
- Exam papers written for someone with a reading age of 16, so students who have a lower reading age (based on vocabulary range and comprehension) are at a disadvantage.
- Reading lists and suggestions are available from your child's teacher.
- Just 15 – 30 minutes a day can make a difference.
- It's important to find books that your child enjoys. The Guardian, Waterstones, Penguin Books and The Bookseller.com all run annual young adult fiction awards. Looking at the shortlists for these is a good place to start.



The Learning Resource Centre (LRC)



The SORA Reading app:
Soraapp.com

Library Catalogue System



- Enables students to discover and enjoy ebooks and audiobooks from school or home
- Accessed using school login
- West Sussex library resources accessed through the app.

Features include:

- Search for books by topic & genre
- Book reviews
- My Lists
- Book requests
- Student Book Recommendations