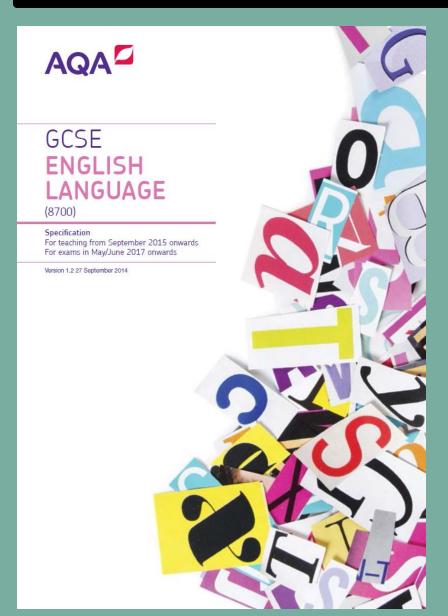
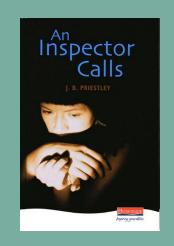
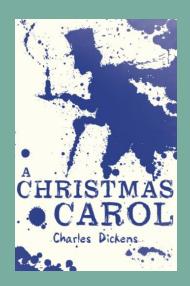
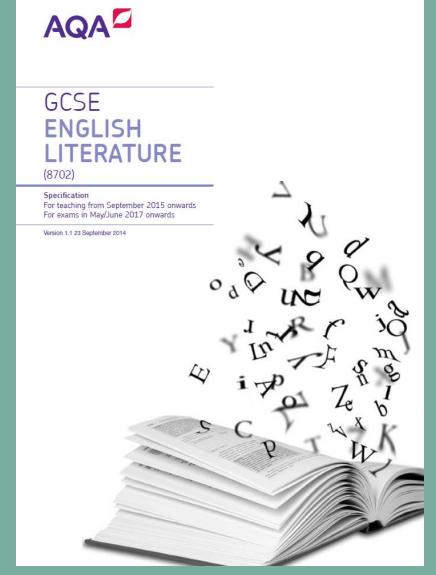
Supporting Achievement in English 2025-26













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

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 LANGUAGE





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- 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 requires 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, are a good place to start. Try to discuss the content with your child.
- Both papers have a strong focus on writing skills.
 Around one third of the marks are for spelling, punctuation and grammar in the writing sections.
 Online tutorials will help students revise this e.g. BBC Bitesize.





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.



Literature Paper 1 (choose any two topics)	Literature Paper 2 (whole paper compulsory)
<u>Shakespeare</u>	Section A: Modern Text
All students study Macbeth.	All students will study a modern text in Year 11.
Most of you have already bought a copy of this text,	This text is: An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley
through school.	All inspector cans by 35 i flesticy
19 th century novel	Section B Anthology of poetry.
All students have studied A	Your child will be given an
Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.	anthology of poems to study. They will study this cluster of
	poems:
We asked students earlier in the year to get their own	 Power and Conflict They will study 15 poems in total.
copies of this (available cheaply through school).	
	Section B
	Part 1: unseen poetry essay Part 2: unseen poetry
	comparison
	Students will not see these poems until the exam.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

What you can do to support your child:

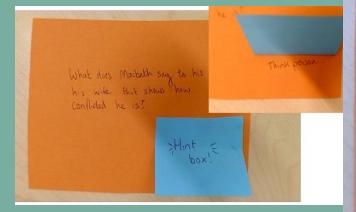
Discuss the books and poems that they study with them! What are their favourites are and why? Ask them about the writers' purpose and the context they were written in.

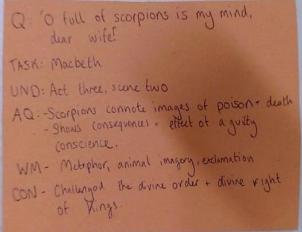


Go and see productions!



Support your child to learn quotations. Revision is hugely important.





What you can do to support your child:

Buy CGP revision guides for the AQA exam board, through school.

Encourage your child to attend SPAs (Supporting Pupil Achievement) on Tuesdays. Students can go along and get some





like help with.

Everyone is welcome!

What you can do to support your child:

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 and skills.



Encourage your child to use online resources, including YouTube tutorials.

Mr Bruff at

https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff and Continuity Oak:

https://continuityoak.org.uk/lessons are good places to start.



What you can do to support your child to read:

- Reading is key. There is a proven correlation between reading and exam success across all subjects, including maths and Science.
- Exam papers are 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 and from Mrs Stone, our librarian in the LRC.
- 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.





