

AQA GCSE English Language (8700)

Two exam papers:

- Paper 1 – *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing*
- Paper 2 – *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*

Both papers are one hour and forty-five minutes.

Paper 1 *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing*

Section A – based on an extract from a novel or short story (20th or 21st century)

- Q.1 4 marks – an easy content based question
- Q.2 8 marks – a 'use of language' question
- Q.3 8 marks – a broader question examining the 'whole of the source'
- Q.4 20 marks – a general reaction question to the whole extract

Section B (45 minutes)

Descriptive / narrative writing – boys do one of the two tasks offered (24 marks for content/organisation and 16 marks for SPAG).

Paper 2 *Writers' Viewpoints and perspectives*

Section A – based on one non-fiction text and one linked literary non-fiction text (one from 19th and the other from 20th/21st century)

- Q.1 4 marks – basic comprehension
- Q.2 8 marks – summary task drawing on both sources
- Q.3 12 marks – language analysis task
- Q.4 16 marks – general question examining students' reaction to both sources

Section B (45 minutes)

Only one writing task is offered in Paper 2. Boys are required to write a non-fiction response – usually argument-based or persuasive writing. This may well be a re-creation of the 'feature' articles boys will have become familiar with.

Note AQA have committed to this combination of marks.

Implications of the changes in this new GCSE

- Boys need to gain experience of doing unseen literary analysis and require exposure to broader range of literary and pre-20th century texts. (From September 2015 boys in Year 9 will study some of the popular texts which have figured prominently in previous GCSE courses – texts like *Of Mice and Men* and *Journey's End*)
 - Narrative writing for the exam – there is already a big emphasis on this in our assessment scheme at KS3 but we need to prioritise this in Year 10/11 to a greater degree.
 - Teaching 'creative reading' in preparation for the short analytical reading tasks in both exam papers.
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AQA GCSE English Literature (8702)

Two exam papers:

- Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (1 hour 45 mins)
- Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry (2 hour 15 mins)

Paper 1 *Shakespeare and the C19th novel*

Candidates write a short essay answer on each. Both have same format – a short extract with which students start before broadening out to write about the particular theme or character in relation to the whole text. (Only one option per text.)

Worth 40% of the GCSE

Paper 2 *Modern Texts and Poetry*

Section A – Modern Prose or Drama – boys do one short essay question (choice of 2)

Section B – Poetry: one question/short essay answer on one of two 'clusters' – *Love & Relationships* or *Power & Conflict*. (Students are given one poem and they have to answer the question with reference to this and one other of their choice.)

Section C – answer both questions (no choice) on two unseen poems.

Key Changes:

- All boys will read a whole C19th novel and a whole Shakespeare play.
- Unseen poetry.
- Reduced choice of question but plenty of choice in terms of texts.