

Autumn 2018

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

*Preparing for 'Mock' and
actual GCSEs.*



GCSE English Language

- 2 Papers
- Mock exam in November will be a past/sample paper 2.

**Component 1: 20th Century
Literature Reading and Creative
Prose Writing**

**Written examination: 1 hour 45
minutes**

40% of qualification

Section A (20%) – Reading
One extract (about 80-100 lines) of
literature from the twentieth century

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing
One creative writing task drawn from
a selection of four titles

**Component 2: 19th and 21st
Century Non-Fiction Reading and
Transactional/Persuasive Writing**

**Written examination: 2 hours
60% of qualification**

Section A (30%) – Reading
Two extracts (about 900-1200
words in total) of high-quality non-
fiction writing from the nineteenth
and twenty-first centuries

Section B (30%) – Writing
Two compulsory
transactional/persuasive writing
tasks

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Section A -Reading (40 marks)

- This section will test through structured questions the reading of two high-quality unseen non-fiction texts (about 900-1200 words in total), one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st century. Non-fiction texts may include, but will not be limited to: letters, extracts from autobiographies or biographies, diaries, reports, articles and digital and multi-modal texts of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and the internet.

For example

- *In her book, 'A Wheel within a Wheel', Frances Willard writes about why and how she learned to ride a bicycle. (19th Century)*
- Cycling in Britain: **Re-inventing the wheel**
Charles Starmer-Smith rediscovers a lost love as he prepares to tackle one of cycling's toughest challenges.

Example comparison question:

- **Both of these texts are about cycling.**
- **Compare:**
- **(a) how the writers feel about cycling;**
- **(b) how they make their views clear to the reader.**

To prepare:

- Get the past titles from your teacher- practise planning for these tasks.

Section B – Writing (40 marks)

- This section will test transactional, persuasive and/or discursive writing through two equally weighted compulsory tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches.

Example Section B task:

- Your local council is considering hosting the 'Iron Man' event in your area, which will involve over five hundred athletes taking part over twelve hours and several road closures.
- ***Write a letter to your councillor, stating your views on the idea.***

Does punctuation matter?

As well as counting for 8 out of 20 marks in Section B, accurate spelling and punctuation make your writing and expression clear.

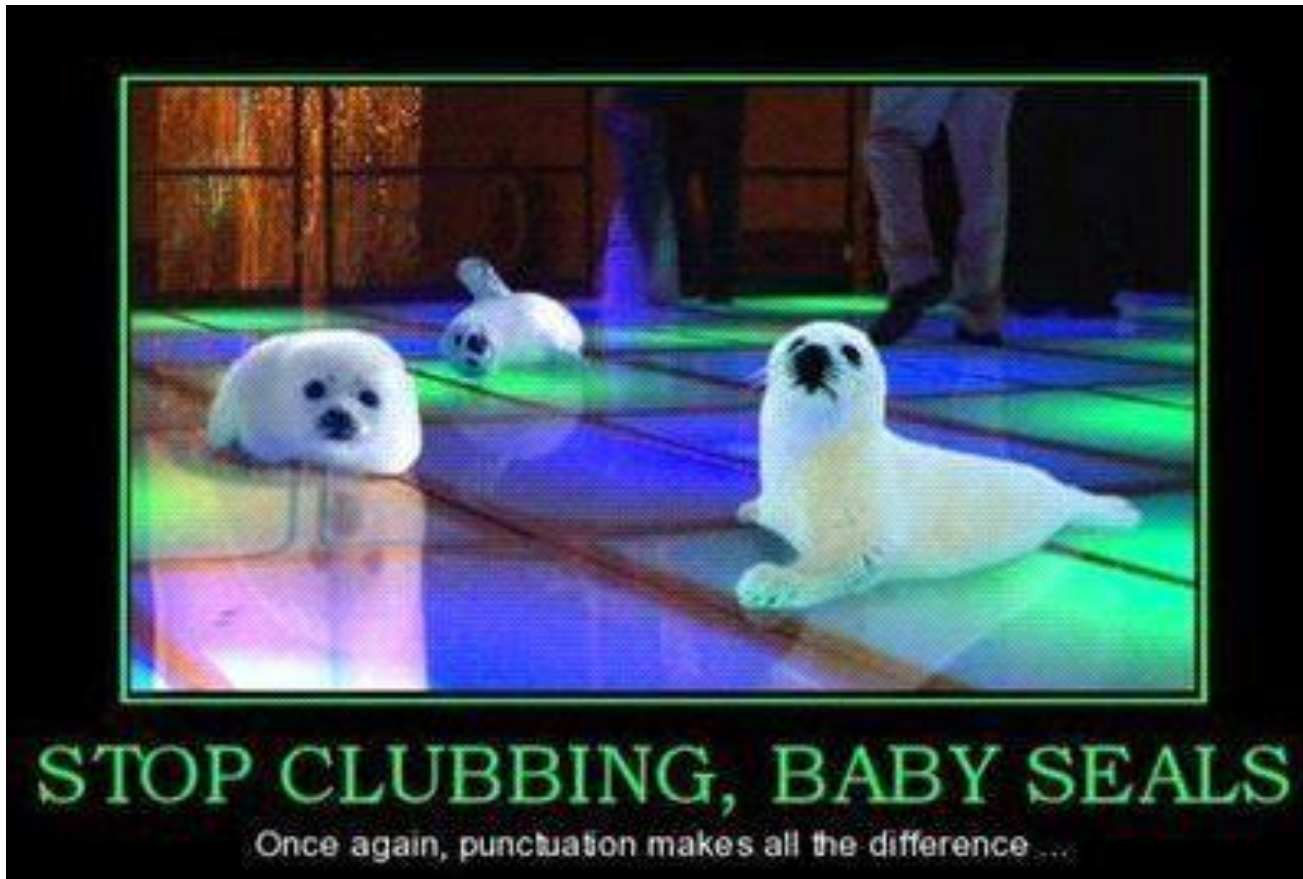
Incorrect punctuation can change the meaning of a sentence...

- *“Most of the time, travellers worry about their luggage.”*
- Now delete the comma after the fourth word to totally change the meaning of this sentence:
- *“Most of the time travellers worry about their luggage”*



COWS
PLEASE
CLOSE
GATE

Just one little comma can create a completely different picture in your reader's mind.



Autumn 2018

GCSE English Literature



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Component 1: :Shakespeare and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours
40% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Shakespeare**
Romeo and Juliet; Othello, OR Macbeth;
One extract question and one essay question based on the reading of a Shakespeare text from the above prescribed list.
- **Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day**
Two questions based on poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/ Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours and 30 minutes
60% of qualification

- **Section A (20%) Post 1914 Prose/Drama**
An Inspector Calls (Priestley) OR *Lord of The Flies*
One source based question
- **Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose**
A Christmas Carol (Dickens)
One source based question on this 19th century prose text.
- **Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry**
Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

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Preparing for English Literature exams

1. Do you know the book/ play well enough?
Re-read if necessary.
2. Map out the plot. Ideally you should know your text – whichever it is – as a series of episodes. You should then be able to pick the most suitable for a question.
3. Learn key quotations for each theme and character. These will overlap and cross reference.

Tips for learning quotations

1. **Choose carefully!** Short, effective and snappy quotations are the easiest to remember and will enable deeper language analysis.
2. **Remember, remember... rhymes and mnemonics.** Creating little rhymes and mnemonics is a classic strategy for memorising quotations. It draws upon a few memory principles. First, repetition. We remember the rhythms and patterns of speech and song more easily.
3. **Spaced repetition of quotations.**
4. **Flashcards and quizzing..**
5. **Build the ‘memory palace’ of quotations.** The *‘memory palace’* is a strategy that is thousands of years old. You create a palace, or a humble house, with multiple rooms. You then compartmentalise the rooms and start to allocate different quotations to different rooms, linking quotes to objects.
6. **Chronological order** – will also help with the plot.
7. **Use sticky notes and colour.**