



*Great Sankey High School English Department*



***AQA GCSE***  
***English Language***

Exam information 2022

# The purpose of this session

Provide an overview of both English Language exam papers.

Walk-through each exam paper using strategies from English lessons.

Provide links to resources, past papers and revision strategies for English Language.

# **AQA GCSE English Language:** **Key information**

Students will sit two papers for English Language.

**Paper 1, Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers.

**Paper 2, Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

English Paper	Exam dates 2022	Time of exam (AM or PM)	Total amount of marks	% Weighting towards final GCSE Grade
<i><b>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</b></i>	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	Am Duration: 1h 45m	80	50%
<i><b>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</b></i>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	AM Duration: 1h 45m	80	50%

**Understanding Paper 1:**  
***Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing***

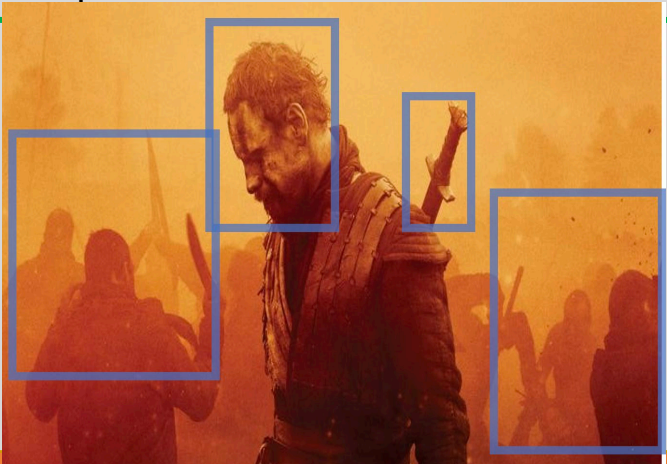
**Section A: Reading**  
**one literature fiction text (20<sup>th</sup> C)**

Students will have **one hour** on this section and must answer **all four** questions.

Question number	Task	Amount of paragraphs	Time allocation
1	List 4 pieces	4 sentences	5 minutes
2	Language	2 paragraphs	8 minutes
3	Structure	3 paragraphs	8 minutes
4	Evaluate	4 paragraphs	20-25 minutes

**Section B: Writing**  
**Descriptive or narrative writing**

Students will have **45 minutes to complete this task**. Students must answer on either the picture or suggested narrative prompt.



Tasks	Time allocation
Plan response. The plan must be sequenced in the order of the descriptive or narrative piece of writing.	5 minutes
Craft creative piece of writing	35 minutes
Proof- read	5 minutes

# English Language Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing (1 hour, 45 minutes / 80 marks)

## Section A (Reading) – 4 Questions (1 hour / 40 marks)

Question 1	List 4 things...	Select information from the text – bullet point.
Question 2	How does the writer use <b>language</b> to...?	Identify writer's language choices (using terminology) and link to purpose/effect on reader.
Question 3	How has the writer <b>structured</b> ...?	Identify structure choices. How is the extract structured to keep interest? How does the focus shift? Why?
Question 4	To what extent do <b>you agree</b> with [given statement]?	Evaluate and offer an opinion supported with examples. Explain the effect of the writer's choice.

## Section B (Writing) – 1 Question (45 minutes / 40 marks)

Question 5	Write either a description <b>or</b> a narrative: well planned content; organised paragraphs; sentence variety; punctuation range; correct spellings; ambitious vocabulary; <b>show, do not tell</b> .
Crucial: proof read	<b>Read back over your work and check it makes sense and that there are no spelling, punctuation or other grammatical errors.</b>

# Understanding Paper 1:

## Section A: Reading one literature fiction text (20<sup>th</sup> C)

### Question 2

*The writer uses language to ....*

*Another example of how the writer uses language to ....*

### Question 3

*At the start of the extract, the writer focuses on...*

*The writer then zooms in on...*

*This is significant at this point in the extract because...*

*This is structurally significant because....*

*This draws the reader's attention here to... which is interesting because...*

*Finally, in the resolution of the extract...*

### Question 3

### Key phrases and sentence starters for each question

### Question 4

Flashbacks	An interruption of the chronological sequence of an event of earlier occurrence
Flashforwards	is a scene that temporarily takes the narrative <b>forward</b> in time from the current point of the story
Introductions and Openings	<b>in medias res</b> =into the middle of a narrative.
Narrative Perspectives	<b>Narrative perspective</b> refers to a set of features determining the way a story is told and what is told. It includes the person who is telling the story, or the narrator.
Development of story	
Shift in focus	Does the narrative shift from one location to another?
Conclusion and ending	Cliff endings
Repetitions, patterns or motifs	
Inside links and Sentence Types	3 types of sentence structures: Simple Compound Complex
Perspective Change	Does the narrative viewpoint change from one character to another.
Time and temporal markers	Temporal markers examples: <b>after, before or while</b>
Sequence of events	Chronological order, non linear

*I agree with the student's statement*

*I partly agree with the statement*

*I disagree with the statement*

*I partially agree with the statement because...*

*However...*

*Some readers might disagree with the statement because...*

*On one hand...*

*On the other hand...*

*Arguably...*

*Conversely...*

*Overall, I think...*

*Additionally, the writer....*

*Furthermore,*

## WHAT?

-What is the writer telling us about the theme/ character/setting?

-What do they want you to feel as a reader?

\* \_\_\_\_\_ *is presented as...*

*\*The reader gets the impression that...*

*\*The writer causes the reader to think that...*

## HOW?

-How is the writer doing this?

-How do they use language/structural techniques to do this?

-How do key words/phrases show this?

-How does it tell us something about the time a text was written?

*\*The adjective/noun/verb/phrase/*

*Image/simile/metaphor/*

*alliteration*

*\*This suggests/implies/indicates*

*demonstrates/presents/ portrays/ highlights/ emphasises/ reinforces/ develops/creates...*

## WHY?

-Why is the writer doing this?

-Why did the writer choose that language?

-Why might they want us to interpret it in a different way?

*\*The writer wants us to understand the importance of...*

*\*It could be argued/some readers may believe/alternatively/ possibly/on the other hand/*

*it may be seen as/*

*for other readers/ equally/ conversely*

**WHAT  
HOW  
WHY**

**SENTENCE  
STARTERS**

**Updated information from the exam board:**  
**Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**

English Paper	Exam dates 2022	Time of exam (AM or PM)	Total amount of marks	% Weighting towards final GCSE Grade
<b><u>Paper 2: Writers'</u></b> <i>Viewpoints and Perspectives</i>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	AM Duration: 1h 45m	80	50%

**Section A**

**Reading**

**Source A**

21st century Autobiographical writing

**Source B**

19th century Essay

**Section B**

**Writing Question 5**

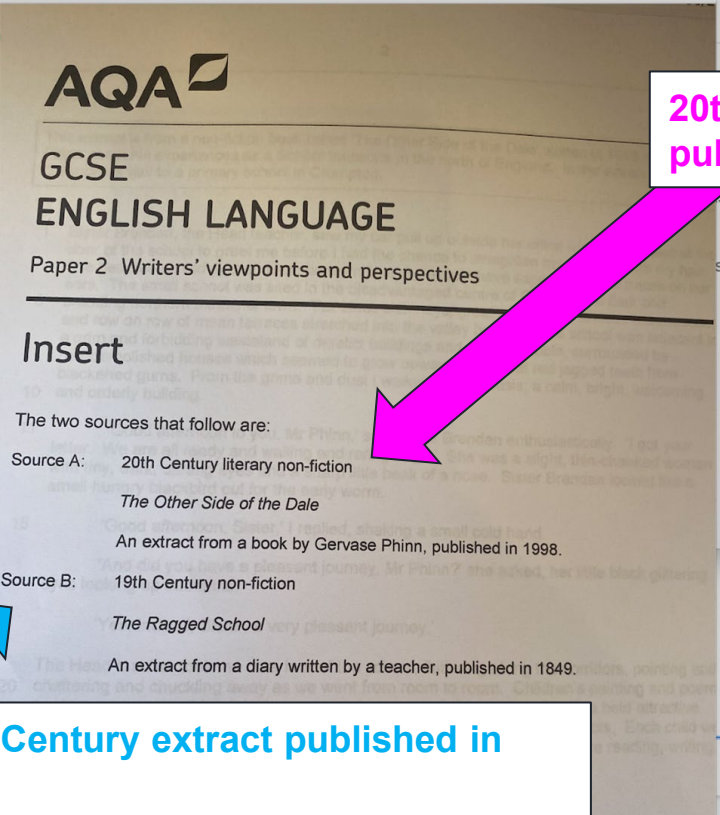
Article



**Understanding Paper 2:  
Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**

Section A: Reading  
Two extracts  
One from the 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
And  
One from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Students will have **one hour** on this section  
and must answer **all four** questions.



20th Century extract  
published in 1998

19th Century extract published in  
1849

Question	Task	Amount of paragraphs	Total marks Total amount of time
1	Find 4 statements		4 marks 5 minutes
2	Summary	2 paragraphs	8 marks 10 minutes
3	Language	3 paragraphs	12 marks 15 minutes
4	Compare	4 paragraphs	5 minutes planning 20 minutes writing

# *The key to English Language revision is...PRACTISE!*

Revision strategy	Link to resources
EXAM QUESTIONS 	AQA Past Papers <a href="https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources">https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources</a>
COMPLETE TIMED RESPONSES 	Collins Snap Reading and Writing <a href="https://collins.co.uk/collections/collins-snap-revision">https://collins.co.uk/collections/collins-snap-revision</a> CGP English Language <a href="https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enas42d-gcse-english-language-aqa-complete-revision">https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enas42d-gcse-english-language-aqa-complete-revision</a>

**Additional resources**  
**English Language Exam Board:**  
**AQA**  
GCSE Bitesize English  
Language <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty>  
GCSE Pod  
Oak National academy:  
<https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-year/year-11/subjects/english>  
Collins Snap Reading and Writing  
<https://collins.co.uk/collections/collins-snap-revision>  
CGP English Language  
<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/gcse/english/english-lang/enas42d-gcse-english-language-aqa-complete-revision>