

Assessment guide for GCSE English Language and Literature

Lang Exam Board: AQA (www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700)

Lit Exam Board: Eduqas (www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/#tab_overview)

How will I be assessed for English?

There will be three main assessments for English Language and Literature.

1. A **controlled assessment** on *An Inspector Calls*. This will be completed in class.
2. Two **assessment papers**, with each one assessing both Language and Literature. Both papers will be 1 hour, 30 minutes. Across these papers, you will be assessed on your fiction reading and writing skills, and your knowledge of *Macbeth* and *A Christmas Carol*. These will be completed in exam conditions.

More specific information on each assessment is below.

1. The controlled assessment on *An Inspector Calls*

- This assessment will test your knowledge of and ability to write about *An Inspector Calls*.
- It is an 'open book' assessment (meaning you can have a copy of the text with you).
- You will know the question and extract ahead of time, and prepare for the assessment in class.
- You will also be allowed to create a 'crib sheet' of key notes to help you in the assessment.

2a. Paper 1 (1 hour, 30 minutes)

Section A: *A Christmas Carol* (45 minutes)

You will answer a question on a key character in the novella.

Section B: Creative Reading (45 minutes)

You will read a short fiction extract, and answer a range of questions testing your ability to retrieve information, read for meaning, explore writers' language choices and develop personal responses to a text.

2b. Paper 2 (1 hour, 30 minutes)

Section A: *Macbeth* (45 minutes)

You will answer an essay question on a key theme in the play.

Section B: Creative Writing (45 minutes)

You will have a choice of planning and writing either a descriptive piece or a short story.

Revision tips and guidance:

- **Join the English revision classroom:** It has links to great online resources, a range of quizzes to test yourself, and more content is coming over the next few weeks. To join, use the Google Classroom code **jbiebbz**.
- **Create a revision schedule:** A schedule with a different focus each week will allow you to interleave and build up your knowledge. There is a basic suggested schedule below, and the revision classroom has a more detailed version.
- **Create something new:** Just sitting and re-reading your notes isn't revision! Make something new - a knowledge organiser, a concept map, flashcards, a quiz... anything that makes you work with the knowledge actively.
- **Don't forget to practise:** Practising written responses is important too - get comfortable with extended pieces of writing. Use the past papers from the exam boards!
- **Not feeling motivated? Revise little and often:** If you struggle to revise for extended periods of time, try to revise for a few minutes each day instead. You could use quotation banks or flashcards to test yourself on key quotes, or write one WHAT HOW WHY paragraph.

Revision guides/resources:

- **Online:** Use GCSE Pod, Seneca Learning and BBC Bitesize. There are links in the English Google Classroom!
- **Language:** Collins GCSE Grade 9-1 Revision - **You can't revise for GCSE 9-1 English! Yes you can, and Mark Roberts shows you how.** Copies of this revision guide are available from the English office for £5.
- **Literature:** CGP revision guides are available at www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books. Flipsco revision cards for the texts can be purchased from the English office for £3 per set.
- **Don't forget your booklets from class - these have lots of useful revision/practice material!**

Suggested revision schedule:

This suggests topics week-by-week. For the essay practice, try to write about the thing you feel weakest/least comfortable with, to make sure you are pushing yourself and improving.

- **WC 22/03:** Revise ACC - Scrooge, Marley, Fred and Bob Cratchit. Practise an essay.
- **WC 29/03:** Revise *Macbeth* - themes of violence and the supernatural. Practise essay.
- **WC 05/04:** Revise P1 writing skills. Plan and write a description or short story from past papers.
- **WC 12/04:** Revise AIC - Mr Birling, the Inspector and Eric. Practise an essay.
- **WC 19/04:** Revise P1 reading skills. Practise a 'how' and 'evaluate' question from past papers
- **WC 26/04:** Revise ACC - the Three Spirits and minor characters. Practise an essay on spirits.
- **WC 03/05:** Revise *Macbeth* - themes of ambition and good vs. evil. Practice an essay.
- **WC 10/05:** Revise P2 writing skills. Plan and write a description or short story from past papers.
- **WC 17/05:** Revise *Macbeth* - consolidate knowledge of themes. Practise an essay.

The English Revision classroom has more detailed information on suggested revision schedules, and will be updated with new suggestions to reflect the scheduling of upcoming assessments.