

2015 Specifications

GCSE English Language (accredited)



INTRODUCING EDUQAS

- In light of the diverging qualifications between England and Wales, WJEC has developed a new brand: Eduqas.
- Eduqas will be the brand that provides schools with WJEC's newly reformed Ofqual regulated GCSEs, AS and A levels.
- Eduqas enables teachers to clearly distinguish between legacy qualifications in Wales and reformed qualifications in England.
- Eduqas qualifications will primarily be available in England but also in Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands at any schools offering Ofqual regulated qualifications.

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in English Language

In developing this specification, WJEC has been mindful to include the following features:

- opportunities for flexible teaching approaches;
- questions and tasks designed to enable candidates to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do;
- straightforward wording of questions;
- accessibility of materials;
- opportunities for breadth of study and subject specific learning and knowledge;
- use of 'unseen' material for analysis in external assessment;
- focused assessment of specific language skills;
- opportunities for producing extended writing;
- high-quality examination and resource materials.

Key Changes

Qualification Requirements

GCSE English language will:

- be 100% examination
- require students to answer questions on unseen 19th, 20th and 21st century texts (texts must include literature and extended literary non-fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism)
- have spoken language skills assessed - but this will not contribute to the overall grade
- allocate 20% of the marks for the written exams to technical accuracy
- be untiered;
- be graded 9 to 1 (9 being the highest) <http://ofqual.gov.uk/news/setting-standards-new-gcses-2017/>
- be fully linear with assessments available in the summer series
- have a November re-sit series for candidates 16 or over

Transition to the new specifications

- For those following a two-year course, first teaching September 2015.
- First qualification award Summer 2017.
- Last award of current specifications in GCSE English Language and English November 2016.

Assessment Summary

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 60-100 lines) of literature from the twentieth century

Total marks=40

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing

One creative writing task drawn from a selection of four titles

Total marks=40

Assessment Summary

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

Total marks=40

Section B (30%) – Writing

Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Total marks=40

Assessment Summary

Component 3: Spoken Language (the new name for speaking and listening)

Non-exam assessment

Unweighted

One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback

Spoken language will be reported on as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

Assessment Objectives - Reading

READING *(50% of overall qualification)*

Read and understand a range of texts to:

- AO1**
 - Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
 - Select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- AO2** Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using **relevant** subject terminology to support their views
- AO3** Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts
- AO4** Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

Each Reading question in our Eduqas specification targets a specific assessment objective

Assessment Objectives - Writing

WRITING *(50% of the overall qualification)*

- AO5** Communicate clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences;
Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
- AO6** Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

Assessment Objectives – Spoken Language

SPOKEN LANGUAGE (*Unweighted*)

- A07** Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting
- A08** Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations
- A09** Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

Spoken Language Conduct, Marking and Grading: Ofqual Proposals

[Ofqual consultation](#) closed on 26th September

Proposals:

- Assessments should be digitally recorded
- Three pass grades and a fail grade (terminology to be decided)
- Published criteria, common to all exam boards

Not an 'optional extra'

Progress 8

- Introduced for all secondary schools in 2016
- The best of English Language and English Literature will be double-weighted, provided a pupil has taken both qualifications.
- The second best score of English Literature and English Language can be counted in the 'open group' of subjects, if it is one of the pupil's highest scores in this group.
- The combined English qualification can be double-weighted in 2016 because pupils will have studied both English Language and English Literature to achieve this qualification.

2017 Performance Measures: only the reformed GCSEs in English language and English literature will count in the 2017 secondary school performance measures

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/qualifications-counting-in-future-performance-tables>

Eduqas Support

A full range of resources is being planned for the new specifications.
These include:

- Endorsed text books and interactive resources
- Teacher guides
- Marked specimen assessment exemplars in interactive format
- CD Rom to accompany the GCSE English Literature free poetry anthology
- KS3 units of work on 19th and 20th century reading
- GCSE units of work on 19th and 21st century reading
- GCSE unit of work on approaches to the teaching of Romantic poetry

Eduqas Support

- E-bulletins
- Teacher guides
- Teaching resources - including <http://resources.wjec.co.uk/>
- [i.e. – online magazine for English teachers](#)
- Online Exam Review: <http://oer.wjec.co.uk/>
- Specifications and sample assessment materials:
[English Language](#); [English Literature](#)
- Training
- Secure website www.wjecservices.co.uk - for past papers, mark schemes, CPD materials

Any Questions?

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