

AQA GCSE English Language

Paper 1 Key facts: 50% of GCSE

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing			
Q #	Skill	Marks	Timing
	Read the extract from the novel		15 mins
1	Finding four facts from the text	4	5 mins
2	Analyse part of an extract looking at words and features	8	10 mins
3	Analyse the structure of the extract (NESTS)	8	10 mins
4	Make an analysis based on an opinion	20	15 mins
5	Writing to describe either based on an image or starting a story with a prompt	40 (24 content, 16 SPaG)	45 mins
	TOTAL	80	1 hour 45 minutes

Skills:

Question 5 on both papers are worth 50% of the paper and are each worth a quarter of the entire GCSE.

It is important to do this first – and use the time wisely:

- 10 minutes PLANNING
- 30 minutes WRITING
- 5 minutes CHECKING

Use the mnemonics on the right to support the answer.

Ti	me
P	lace
To	pic
P	erson

S	imple
C	ompound
S	ubordinate
1	word

S	imile
P	ersonification
A	lliteration
M	etaphor
R	epetition
O	nomatopoeia
D	escription (based on senses)

Paper 2 Key Facts: 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives			
Q #	Skill	Marks	Timing
	Read the two extracts – one modern text and one from the nineteenth century		15-20 mins
1	Finding four facts/opinions from the text	4	5 mins
2	Summary of the similarities and differences between the two texts	8	10 mins
3	Analyse the language of the extract	12	10 mins
4	Comparison of perspectives of the two writers	16	15 mins
5	Writing to persuade using a specific form	40 (24 content, 16 SPaG)	45 mins
	TOTAL	80	1 hour 45 minutes

Skills:

Forms – learn the conventions!

- Newspaper article
- Speech
- Letter
- Leaflet
- Essay.

A	lliteration
F	act
O	pinion
R	hetorical Question
E	motive Language
S	tatistics
T	riples

AQA GCSE English Literature

Paper 1 Key facts: 40% of GCSE

Shakespeare and the 19 th -Century novel			
Q #	Skill	Marks	Time
1	Shakespeare: either <i>Macbeth</i> or <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the extract • Analyse the language • Include quotations from across the play • Link to historical context 	30 +4 for SPaG	45 mins
2	Novel: either <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , <i>The Sign of the Four</i> or <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the extract • Analyse the language • Include quotations from across the play • Link to historical context 	30	45 mins
Checking answers/planning			15 mins
TOTAL		64	1 hour 45 minutes

For this exam, each question will have a printed extract that pupils can refer to. However, in order to aim for a 'strong' pass of Grade 5 and above, they will need to include quotations that they know from across the text.

The exam board want to see a lot of quotations to support opinions and ideas, embedded into answers.

Paper 2 Key facts: 60% of GCSE

Modern texts and poetry			
Q #	Skill	Marks	Time
1	Modern play: either <i>Blood Brothers</i> or <i>An Inspector Calls</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan your answer based on knowledge of the play • Analyse the language • Include quotations from across the play • Link to historical context 	30 +4 for SPaG	45 mins
2	Poetry: either <i>Power and Conflict</i> or <i>Love and Relationships</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One poem printed • Compare to a second from knowledge • Analyse the language and devices • Link to historical context 	30	45 mins
3	Unseen Poetry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read unseen poem • Analyse language and devices 	24	20 mins
4	Unseen Poetry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read second unseen poem • Compare to the other • Analyse language and devices 	8	10 mins
Checking answers/planning			15 mins
TOTAL		96	2 hour 15 minutes

To revise, we suggest:

- Re-reading the texts – copies are available online from £2 to £7;
- Use revision guides;
- Watch adapted versions as films;
- Re-read the poems and find similarities;
- Understand the names and personalities of characters – supported with quotations;
- Know the narrative and key themes – supported with quotations;
- Learn quotations.

T	hemes
W	ords
I	magery
S	tructure
T	houghts