



Montgomery Academy

GCSE Revision Toolkit

Exam Dictionary

A glossary of subject-specific terminology for
English Language and Literature



AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1- Fiction

General words

Quotation- a quotation is a section of writing taken from the text. Use speech marks around it to show it is a quote.

Analysis- when more than one explanation is offered or ideas are joined together and explained.

Embedded quotations- this is when you place your quote in the middle of a sentence without interrupting the flow of the sentence. For example, The writer describes the men as 'feeling like two birds in the sky' meaning they were high up.

Evidence- ideas and examples from the text that back up your point

Techniques- the tools used to create a particular effect

Simile- a phrase that compares one thing to another using 'like' or 'as'

Metaphor- something not actually true because it would be impossible

Personification- giving something that is not human, human qualities

Alliteration- when the same letter or sound appears at the start of words

Emotive language- creates emotions within the reader

Interpretation- explaining the meaning of something in the way that you personally see it

Onomatopoeia- when words create a sound

Fiction – poetry or stories- ideas or stories that have been invented by the writer

Sympathy- making you feel sorry for the reader

Engage – attract someone's attention

Paper 1 Question 1 (4 marks)

This question will ask you to find **four** details from a section of the text and **list** them.

You will need to:

- Write in full sentences
- Only select information from the part of the text you are asked to look at
- Select evidence that answers the question and nothing else

Paper 1 Question 2 (8 marks)

This is the language question. You will be asked how the writer uses language for a certain purpose.

You will need to:

- Use quotations from the section you have been asked to analyse
- Pick out techniques used by the writers
- Analyse them for effects on the reader
- You will be awarded for more than one idea about how a technique effects the reader

Paper 1 Question 3 (8 marks)

This question asks you about the structure of the source- how the writer has organised the writing

You must ensure you:

- Select structural techniques used by the text
- Explain how the effect a reader and answer the question
- Make sure you only pick examples from the parts selected in the question
- Pick examples from all over the section selected

How does the writer use language to _____?

Focus- concentrate on this particular thing

Reflect- copy or mirror something

Demonstrate- to show something

Imitate- to copy something

Paper 1 Question 4 (20 marks)

This question asks you about how a writer has created a particular impression and how you feel about what you have read.

You will be given a statement that has been made about the text you have read, and then you will be asked if you agree.

Creates – makes something happen or brings something to life

Agree – to have the same opinion about something

Disagree – to have a different opinion about something

Impression - an idea, feeling, or opinion about something or someone

Atmosphere – the feeling or mood of a place or situation

Paper 2 Question 5 (40 marks)

Narrative and Descriptive Writing

Describe – give details about

Character – a person in a play, story or film. Often made up

Scene- a place, either one that is made up or actually exists

Place- a particular location

AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2- Non Fiction

General Words

Suggests = makes you (the reader) think

Paper 2 Question 1 (4 marks)

This question will tell you to:

Choose **four** statements below which are TRUE.

- Shade the boxes of the ones you think are true
- Choose a maximum of four statements

Statements = sentences about the text (Remember only four of these sentences are TRUE)

Shade = colour in with your black pen

Maximum = the most – you must only colour in four of the boxes

Paper 2 Question 2 (8 marks)

This question will tell you to refer to source A and source B

Refer = look at and use in your answer

Source = text / piece of writing

It will give you a sentence about the texts and then say:

Use details from both sources to write a summary of the differences.

Details = quotations and/or information

Summary = Using your own words write how the pieces of writing are different. Remember the sentence in the question will have told you what to focus on and you must focus on this. For example, if the focus is "people" then you write about the differences in the answer.

Remember that you need to explain briefly what the quotation and / or information from the text you include suggests.

Paper 2 Question 3 (12 marks)

This question will say:

How does _____ use language to?

Language = words and phrases

You need to pick out words and phrases from the lines the question tells you to look at that answer the question. You then need to say what these words and phrases suggest (see definition under 'General')

Paper 2 Question 4 (16 marks)

This question will say something like:

Compare how the writers have conveyed their different views and experiences of.....

In your answer you could:

- Compare their different views and experiences
- Compare the methods they use to convey those views and experiences
- Support your ideas with quotations from both texts

Convey = show

Views = what they think, feel and believe. Other words used that means the same are **perspectives and opinions**

Experiences = what has happened to them

Methods = the **techniques** they use to show you what they think, feel and believe

Techniques = examples of these include: using facts, giving opinion as fact

Paper 2 Question 5 (40 marks)

Transactional Writing

Broadsheet Newspaper – a newspaper that is often seen as being more serious than other newspapers

Essay-a piece of writing on a particular idea

Article- a piece of writing often found in a newspaper or magazine

Formal- sophisticated or "posh" language

Informal- more relaxed, casual language

Local MP- somebody who represents the place where you live- they will speak for your area in parliament

Principal- another word for head teacher

Editor- someone who decides which stories will be included in the newspaper

Inform- to give someone facts or information

Persuade- try to get someone to do something/believe in something

Explain- make an idea clear to someone

GCSE AQA English Language - Glossary of Terms

Adjective – A word that describes a noun or a pronoun, e.g. heavy, kind, useful.

Adverb – A word that gives extra information about a verb, e.g. carefully, rarely, tightly.

Alliteration - occurs when a series of words in a row (or close to a row) have the same first consonant sound. For example, "She sells sea-shells down by the sea-shore".

Antithesis – A rhetorical technique where opposing words or ideas are presented together to show contrast.

Bathos - An effect of anti-climax created by a lapse in mood from the sublime to the trivial or ridiculous. Tricking the reader from positive to negative within one given statement.

Biased writing – Gives more support to one point of view than to another, due to the writer's own opinions affecting the way they write.

Celebrity endorsement - a form of advertising that uses famous personalities or celebrities who command a high degree of recognition, trust, respect or awareness amongst the people.

Clause – Part of a sentence that has a subject and a verb. Main clauses make sense on their own.

Colloquial language – Informal language that sounds like ordinary speech.

Connectives / Discourse markers – a word or phrase whose function is to link other linguistic units.

Contrast – providing strikingly different concepts/ideas which juxtaposition one another.

Context – The background to something, or the situation surrounding it, which affects the way it is understood. E.g., the context of a text from 1915 would include the First World War.

Counter-argument – The opposite point of view to the writer's own view. This is useful when writing to argue or persuade; first give the counter-argument, then explain why you disagree with it.

Determiner – A word that goes before a noun to show possession or quantity, e.g. 'his', 'two'.

Direct address – When a writer talks straight to the reader, e.g. 'you might recall...'

Emotive language – Language that has an emotional effect on the reader.

Exaggeration – a statement that represents something as better or worse than it really is.

Exclamation – A sentence that conveys strong emotions, usually ending with an exclamation mark.

Explicit information – Information that is directly stated in a text.

Facts – information that is known or proved to be true.

Figurative language – Language that is used in a non-literal way to create an effect, e.g. personification, simile, metaphor.

First person – A narrative viewpoint where the narrator is one of the characters, written using words like 'I', 'we', 'our'.

Form – The type of text, e.g. a letter, a speech or a newspaper article.

Humour – the quality of being amusing or comic, especially as expressed in literature or speech.

Hyperbole – When exaggeration is used to have an effect on the reader.

Imperative verb – A verb that gives orders or directions, e.g. 'run away' or 'stop that'.

Impersonal tone – A tone of writing that doesn't try to directly engage with the reader.

Implicit information – Information that's hinted at without being said outright.

Inference – A conclusion reached about something based on evidence. E.g. from the sentence 'Yasmin wrinkled her nose at lasagne', you could infer that Yasmin doesn't like lasagne.

Intensifier – Altering the normal word order for emphasis, e.g. 'very friendly'.

Irony – Saying one thing but meaning the opposite. E.g. 'What a great idea of mine to go for a nice long walk on the rainiest day of the year.'

Limited narrator – A narrator who only has partial knowledge about the events or characters in a story.

Linguistic devices – Language techniques used to have an effect on the audience. E.g. repetition.

Linear structure – A type of narrative structure that tells the events of a story in chronological order.

List of three – Using three words (often adjectives) or phrases together to create emphasis.

Metaphor – A way of describing something by saying that it is something else to create a vivid image. E.g. 'His eyes were deep, blue pools.'

Motif – A recurring idea or image in the text.

Narrative viewpoint – The perspective that a text is written from e.g. first person point of view.

Narrator – The voice or character speaking the words of the narrative.

Non-linear structure – A type of narrative structure that tells the events of a story in a non-chronological order.

Noun – A naming word that refers to a person, thing, place or idea, e.g. Alex, soup, Germany, freedom.

Objective writing – A neutral, unbiased style of writing which contains facts rather than opinions.

Onomatopoeia – A word that imitates the sound it describes as you say it, e.g. 'splash'.

Opinion – An opinion is a judgment, viewpoint, or statement about matters commonly considered to be subjective.

Pathos – An appeal to emotion, and is a way of convincing an audience of an argument by creating an emotional response.

Paraphrase – Describing or rephrasing something in a text without including a direct quote.

Parenthesis – A rhetorical technique where an extra clause is inserted into a complete sentence.

Personal anecdote – A short account of a particular incident or event.

Personification – Describing something as a person, e.g. 'The sea growled hungrily.'

Pictures / images – A representation of the external form of a person, object, organisation etc.

Possessive determiner – A determiner such as 'your' or 'my' that tells you who something belongs to.

Possessive pronoun – A pronoun such as 'yours' or 'mine' that tells you who something belongs to.

Pragmatics - Pragmatics is a subfield of linguistics and semiotics that studies the ways in which context contributes to **meaning, reliant on the time, manner or place in which the context/talk takes place.**

Pronoun – A word that can take the place of a noun in a sentence, e.g. 'he', 'she', 'it'.

Register – The specific language used to match writing to the social situation that it's for.

Rhetorical question – A question that doesn't need an answer, e.g. 'Why do we do this to ourselves?!'

Reliable sources – Organisations such as the 'NHS', 'NSPCC' which are trusted and reputable; professionals such as doctors, nurses, teachers; materials such as an article, book or research paper that has been vetted by the scholarly community and regarded as reliable, where the material has been published.

Repetition - Repetition is a literary device that repeats the same words or phrases a few times to make an idea clearer.

Sarcasm - the use of words that mean the opposite of what you really want to say especially in order to insult someone, to show irritation, or to be funny.

Satire – A style of text that makes fun out of people or situations, often by imitating them and exaggerating their flaws.

Scare tactics - A strategy that uses examples, language, action or imagery to scare someone into doing something / stop doing something.

Second person – A narrative viewpoint that is written as if the reader is one of the characters.

Semantic field - In linguistics, a semantic field is a set of words grouped semantically (that is, by meaning), referring to a specific subject.

Sensory language – Language that appeals to the five senses.

Shock tactics - A strategy that uses extreme examples, language, action or imagery to shock someone into doing something / stop doing something.

Simile – A way of describing something by comparing it to something else, usually by using the words 'like' or 'as'. E.g. 'He was as pale as the moon.'

Statistics - the practice collecting and analysing numerical data in large quantities, especially for the purpose of inferring proportions in a whole from those in a representative sample.

Structure – The order and arrangement of ideas in a text. E.g. how the text begins, develops and ends.

Subject – The person or thing that performs the action described by the verb. E.g. in "Billy ate the sandwich", Billy is the subject.

Tabloid – A less formal type of newspaper, which often focuses on more sensational topics.

Taboo - an action or word that is avoided for religious or social reasons:

Third person – A narrative viewpoint where the narrator remains outside the events of the story, written using words like 'he', 'she' and 'they'.

Triplets / rule of three - The **rule of three** or power of **three** is a writing principle that suggests that things that come in **threes** are funnier, more satisfying, or more effective than other numbers of things. The reader or audience of this form of text is also thereby more likely to remember the information.

Tone – The mood or feeling of a piece of writing, e.g. happy, sad, serious, light-hearted.

Verb – A doing or being word, e.g. dig, breathe, are, is.

Viewpoint – The attitude and beliefs that a writer is trying to convey.

AQA GCSE English Literature – Glossary of Terms

Attitudes – Thoughts and feelings about something. For example, in a question about how Russell presents attitudes towards education you would need to write about what different characters think and feel about education in the play.

Convey – show

Context – This is the background to the text.

Explore how far... - A question asking you to '**Explore how far** you agree with...' is asking you whether you think the statement is completely true, partly true or not true in your opinion. This type of question is also sometimes worded '**To what extent do you agree...**'

Filial Duty – This is when children have to obey their parents.

Generations – If the question asks you about **generations** it is asking you about the people born at the same time. For example, in 'Romeo and Juliet' Juliet, Romeo, Benvolio and Tybalt are the younger generation and Lord and Lady Capulet, The Prince, The Nurse, The Friar and Lord and Lady Montague are the older generation.

Patriarchal society – This is where men are dominant (have power) over women.

Presents – shows

Protagonist – main character

Relationships – how the characters interact (eg. friendships) and/or how the characters connect with each other.

Role – Their part in the play. For example, in the question 'Explore Mrs Johnstone's role in 'Blood Brothers'', you need to write about why her character is there – why she is important.

Significance – If the question asks you about the **significance** of something it is asking you why it is important.

Social classes – The groups in society. In 'Blood Brothers' Mrs Johnstone is working-class and Mrs Lyons is middle-class. In 'Romeo and Juliet' Lord and Lady Capulet are upper class and the Nurse is working-class.

Society - the community in which the characters are living.

Sympathy – feeling sorry for someone. For example, a question about who you have the most sympathy for is asking you who you feel the sorriest for (who has the worst things happen to them).

Theme – An idea that comes up a lot in the text. For example, love in 'Romeo and Juliet'

Typical – common / stereotype

AQA GCSE English Literature - Glossary of Terms for Poetry

Archaic – belonging to earlier or ancient times

Assonance – Repetition of vowel sounds appearing in the same place in a series of words to create internal rhyming.

Alliteration - The same sound is repeated at the start of words that are close together.

Ballad – a traditional story written in rhyme with four lines to a verse.

Caesura – a pause during a line of poetry.

Charade - an absurd pretence intended to create a pleasant or respectable appearance.

Closed couplet – a couplet in which the main thought or image is expressed in two lines.

Colloquial – the everyday speech used by people in ordinary situations.

Context – something outside a text that affects its meaning.

Connotation – An additional meaning attached to a word in specific circumstances (what it suggests/implies).

Couplet – two lines of poetry that are paired.

Double meaning – a word or expression having two (or more) meanings, sometimes called a pun.

Dramatic Monologue – a poetic form in which a single voice addresses the reader, creating a strong sense of character. An imaginary speaker addressing an imaginary audience.

Elegy – a poem lamenting a death.

End-rhyme – rhyme at the end of lines of poetry

End-stopping – where there is a pause at the end of a line, usually a full stop.

Epitaph – an inscription on a grave, or writing suitable for the purpose.

Enjambment – in poetry, when a line runs on into the next without pause, so carrying the thought with it. Sometimes called run-on line.

Extended Metaphor – in poetry, a metaphor that continues some aspect of the image; it may continue into the next line or throughout the poem.

Foot – a unit of rhythm

Form – the shape of the poem. Some shapes have names such as sonnets, ballads, dramatic monologue, haiku etc.

Free verse – a form of poetry; verses without a regular rhythm or pattern, though they may contain some patterns such as rhyme. A poem that has no regular rhythm or line length.

Half rhyme – where the rhyme at the end of a line has the same consonants but not the same vowel sound, so not quite full rhyme, e.g. pet/pat

Hyperbole - Extreme exaggeration.

Iambic pentameter - A foot is an iamb if it consists of one unstressed syllable followed by a stressed syllable, so the word remark is an iamb. Pent means five, so a line of **iambic pentameter** consists of five **iamb**s – five sets of unstressed syllables followed by stressed syllables

Imagery – Descriptive language that uses images to make actions, objects and characters more vivid picture in the mind of the reader.

Idyll – a short poem describing a picturesque scene or event in rural life.

Imperative – expressing a command, e.g. Come in!

Irony – deliberately saying one thing when you mean another, usually in a humorous or sarcastic way.

Juxtaposition - Two directly contrasting ideas.

Metaphor - A figure of speech that compares unlike objects.

Metre – the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables in a line of verse.

Motif – a repeated theme or idea.

Narrative Poem – a poem that tells a story.

Octave – a verse of eight lines, usually in iambic pentameter; the first eight lines of a sonnet.

Omniscient – a speaker's voice that sees and knows everything that happens.

Onomatopoeia – when a word sounds like what they mean, e.g. buzz, crack, pop.

Oxymoron – where two opposite words are placed next to each other. A contradiction of each other. This can sometimes suggest confusion in the speaker's mind.

Pathos – a point in a poem or work of art where strong feelings of sadness are evoked.

Personification - When animals or objects are said to have human characteristics / feelings.

Poetic Voice – the speaker or narrator of a poem. This persona is created in the reader's mind, though sometimes it can seem close to the poet's or writer's own voice.

Quatrain – A stanza (verse) of four lines, usually following an ABAB rhyme scheme.

Refrain – a recurring phrase or line at the end of each stanza of poetry.

Repetition – repeated words or patterns in a poem.

Rhyme - When two or more words have the same sound at the end of a line.

Rhyming couplet – two lines of poetry usually the same length, that rhyme.

Semantic field - A group of words that together create a theme in a text. E.g (knife, blood, ooze would be a semantic field of violence).

Sibilance - a literary device where strongly stressed consonants are created deliberately by producing air from vocal tracts through the use of lips and tongue, e.g. 's' or 'sh'. Alliteration of the 's' sound.

Simile - A comparison when we say one thing is 'like' or 'as' something else.

Sonnet – A fourteen line verse with a rhyming couplet at the end.

Stanza – A group or pattern of lines forming a verse in poetry.

Stream of consciousness – writing in which the speaker's or character's thought processes follow in a loose, dreamlike way as ideas flow into each other.

Structure – how the poet has organised his or her work into patterns (numbers of stanzas, their length, the rhymes and rhythms used).

Symbol – something that represents something else , usually with meanings that are widely known.

Theme – The central idea of the poem; what it is about.

Tirade - a long, angry speech of criticism or accusation. (Ozymandias)

Tone - The emotion that the author is feeling as they write. The overall feeling or mood of a poem.