

# AQA English Language/Literature Parents' Workshop



# AQA English Language and Literature Parents' Workshop

## **Aims of the session:**

1. To give parents an overview of the new English Language examinations
2. To explain how students can prepare themselves fully for the summer examinations
3. To provide parents with useful information and practical advice on how to support their son/daughter in the next couple of months



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## **AQA English Literature GCSE**

Two examinations:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel

1 hour and 45 minutes

40% of final grade

Section A: 30 marks + SPAG (4) Much Ado About Nothing

Section B: 30 marks - A Christmas Carol

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

2 hours and 15 minutes

60% of final grade

Section A: 30 marks + SPAG (4) An Inspector Calls/Lord of the Flies

Section B: 30 marks - Power and Conflict Anthology

Section Ci: 24 marks – unseen poetry analysis

Section Cii: 8 marks – unseen poetry comparison



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## **AQA English Language GCSE**

Two examinations: 1 hour and 45 minutes each.  
15 minutes reading time and 45 minutes to answer each section.  
Section B must be answered first.

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (one extract)

50% of final grade

Section A: 40 marks – reading skills

Section B: 40 marks – writing skills: descriptive or narrative

### Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives (two extracts)

50% of final grade

Section A: 40 marks – reading skills

Section B: 40 marks – writing skills: to present a viewpoint



Paper 1 : Question 1 (AO1) (5 mins)  
4 marks

- Identify relevant explicit information
- You can copy/lift from the text
- Students must use a full sentence with a pronoun (he/she/it/they)
- No quotation marks



Paper 1 : Question 2 (AO2) (15 mins)  
8 marks

- Language analysis
- Identify two/three pieces of language relevant to the question focus
- Must use **short** evidence
- You must use accurate terminology
- You must explain the effect on the reader



Paper 1 : Question 3 (AO3) (10 mins)  
8 marks

- Structural analysis
- Identify the focus of each paragraph
- Look for time shifts/chronology
- Consider the ending and the closing
- Identify any recurring motifs or symbols
- You must explain why the text is structured in the way it is



Paper 1 : Question 4 (AO4) (30 mins)  
20 marks

- Evaluative analysis
- Always agree with the statement
- Include evidence from the text
- Analyse and comment on the methods used by the writer
- Aim to evaluate which methods create a more convincing effect





Paper 1: Question 5 (AO5/6) (45 mins)  
40 marks

- Writing to describe or narrative writing
- **Quality of writing is being assessed**
- Varied paragraph lengths: one word/one sentence
- Varied sentence openers
- Accurate SPAG – varied punctuation (!?:;...)
- Ambitious and varied vocabulary
- Consciously crafted use of linguistic devices



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Paper 2 : Question 1 (AO1) (5 mins)  
4 marks

- Explicit information
- Identify four correct statements



Paper 2 : Question 2 (AO1) (10 mins)  
8 marks

- Summary task
- Identify key differences/similarities first
- **Write about both sources in the same paragraph**, showing the clear differences between them
- Use evidence
- Show some inference and perceptive understanding



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Paper 2 : Question 3 (AO2) (15 mins)  
12 marks

- Language analysis
- Identify two/three pieces of language relevant to the question focus
- Must use **short** evidence
- You must use accurate terminology
- You must explain the effect on the reader



Paper 2 : Question 4 (AO3) (30 mins)  
16 marks

- Comparison of writers' viewpoints/opinions/perspectives
- Read the question very carefully – what are you being asked to compare?
- Write about both texts within the same paragraph
- Compare similar or linked ideas where possible
- Comment on the methods used by the writers to present their ideas
- What is the overall tone of each text?



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Paper 2 : Question 4 (AO3) (30 mins)  
16 marks

Use this formula as a starting point to structure your paragraphs:

**Source A point**

**Source A evidence**

**Analysis of methods used from the evidence**

**Connective**

**Source B point**

**Source B evidence**

**Analysis of methods used from the evidence**



Paper 2: Question 5 (AO5/6) (45 mins)  
40 marks

- Writing to explain a point of view
- **Quality of writing is being assessed**
- Heading and sub headings
- Varied paragraph lengths: one word/one sentence
- Varied sentence openers
- Accurate SPAG – varied punctuation (!?::;...)
- Ambitious and varied vocabulary
- Consciously crafted use of linguistic devices





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## **Practical tips and advice**

1. Your son/daughter must learn the specific skills needed to answer each question in Section A of both papers.
2. Timings! Using the Paper 1 and 2 booklets, ensure your son/daughter keeps to the clear time guidelines to ensure they don't spend too long on a particular question.
3. Writing practice. Your son/daughter can practice writing individual paragraphs or openings and closings for the past paper questions that they have.
4. Test your son/daughter on key quotations for both characters and themes for the Literature set texts
5. Test your son/daughter on the links between poems so that they make relevant choices in the pressure of the exam.