

# AQA GCSE English Language/Literature Parents' Workshop



# AQA English Language and Literature Parents' Workshop

## **Aims of the session:**

1. To give parents an overview of the English Language and Literature 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 child 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 (13th May 2024)

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 (20th May 2024)

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)

23rd May 2024

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)

6th June 2024

50% of final grade

Section A: 40 marks – reading skills

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



## Language Paper 1 : Question 1 (AO1)

- Identify relevant explicit information
- You can copy/lift from the text



## Language Paper 1 : Question 2 (AO2)

- Language analysis
- Identify three pieces of language relevant to the question focus
- Must use **short** evidence
- You must use accurate terminology
- Discuss word classes- verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs.
- You must explain the effect on the reader



## Language Paper 1 : Question 3 (AO3)

- 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 how the structure interests the reader



## Language Paper 1 : Question 4 (AO4)

- 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





## Language Paper 1 and 2 : Question 5 (AO5/6) (45 mins)

- Varied paragraph lengths: one word/one sentence
- Varied sentence openers
- Accurate SPAG – varied punctuation (!?::;...)
- Ambitious and varied vocabulary
- Headings/sub-headings/bullet points – Paper 2
- **Consciously crafted use of linguistic devices**



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

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



## Language Paper 2 : Question 1 (AO1)

- Explicit information
- Identify 4 true statements out of 8



## Language Paper 2 : Question 2 (AO1)

- 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



## Language Paper 2 : Question 3 (AO2)

- Language analysis
- Identify three pieces of language relevant to the question focus
- Must use **short** evidence
- You must use accurate terminology
- Discuss word classes- verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs.
- You must explain the effect on the reader



## Language Paper 2 : Question 4 (AO3)

- Comparison
- Read the question very carefully – what are you being asked to compare?
- 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?



## Language Paper 2 : Question 4 (AO3)

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



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## **Practical tips and advice**

1. Flashcards for key quotations
2. Key quotation booklets
3. Websites
4. Revision guides (available from finance office)
5. Revision sessions in school (mornings and after school) - check the app/email notifications
6. Past exam papers
7. Read!