



**TOTTINGTON
HIGH SCHOOL**
Excellence Through Partnership

Year 10 Information Evening

ENGLISH



We believe, you achieve



The English Language GCSE is divided into two papers:

Paper One: Explorations in creative reading and writing

Paper Two: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

EACH PAPER

- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 40 marks for reading
- 40 marks for writing



Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

AQA Section A: Reading

***A Sound of Thunder* by Ray Bradbury**

An extract from the middle of a short story, published in 1952

Using a time machine, an organisation called Time Safari transports clients into the past to take part in hunting expeditions. A group that includes Mr Eckels, together with their guide, Travis, is visiting a prehistoric jungle in order to shoot a Tyrannosaurus Rex.

***The Mill* by H E Bates**

An extract from the beginning of a short story, published in 1935

This extract is from the beginning of a short story by H E Bates, set in the 1930s. Hartop and his wife own a van from which they sell produce to people in their local area, and their daughter, Alice, works with them.

Need to be able to comprehend difficult texts – private reading routine is encouraged



Language

Evaluation

0 2

Look in detail at this extract, from **lines 6 to 12** of the source:

Hartop was driving: a thin, angular man, starved-faced. He seemed to occupy almost all the seat, sprawling awkwardly; so that his wife and their daughter Alice sat squeezed up, the girl with her arms flat as though ironed against her side, her thin legs pressed tight together into the size of one. The Hartops' faces seemed moulded in clay and in the light from the van-lamps were a flat swede-colour. Like the man, the two women were thin, with a screwed-up thinness that made them look both hard and frightened.

How does the writer use language here to describe the Hartop family?

You could include the writer's choice of:

- words and phrases
- language features and techniques
- sentence forms.

[8 marks]

0 4

Focus this part of your answer on the second part of the source, from **line 34 to the end**.

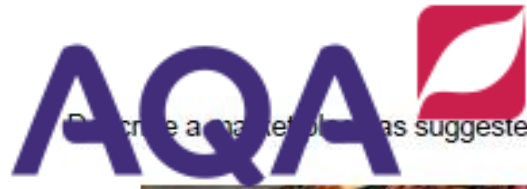
A student said, 'This part of the story, where Alice is sent back along the road to find what has fallen from the roof and returns with the chrysanthemums, shows how hard and cruel Hartop is, so that all of our sympathy is with Alice.'

To what extent do you agree?

In your response, you could:

- consider whether Alice is treated cruelly by her father
- evaluate how the writer creates sympathy for Alice
- support your response with references to the text.

[20 marks]



Describe a market place as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.



0 5

Your school or college is asking students to contribute some creative writing for its website.

Either

Describe a market place as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story with the title 'Abandoned'.



Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)



Section A: Reading

Source A: 21st Century non-fiction

The Crossing

An extract from James Cracknell and Ben Fogle's autobiographical account of crossing the Atlantic, published in 2006

Source B: 19th Century literary non-fiction

Idle Days in Patagonia

An extract from W H Hudson's travel writing, published in 1893

written in 1936

Source B: 19th Century non-fiction

Need to be able to comprehend difficult texts – private reading routine is encouraged

in 1898



0	3
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You now need to refer only to **Source A** from **lines 26 to 35**.

Language

How does the writer use language to describe the crowd of people?

[12 marks]

0	4
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For this question, you need to refer to the **whole of Source A**, together with the **whole of Source B**.

Comparison

Compare how the writers convey their different attitudes to the elephants.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different attitudes to elephants
- compare the methods the writers use to convey their attitudes
- support your response with references to both texts.

[16 marks]



Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

0	5
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‘People protest about the cruelty of keeping animals in captivity, but they seem happy enough to eat meat, keep pets and visit zoos. All animals should be free!’

Write an article for a magazine in which you explain your point of view on this statement.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]

You are advised to plan your answer to Question 5 before you start to write.



Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- Shakespeare plays
- The 19th-century novel

Macbeth
A Christmas Carol

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.



- Language
- Methods
- Authorial intent
- Influence of the social and historical context

Macbeth

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Macbeth* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play, the Captain tells Duncan about Macbeth's part in the recent battle.

CAPTAIN

Doubtful it stood,
As two spent swimmers that do cling together
And choke their art. The merciless Macdonald –
Worthy to be a rebel, for to that
5 The multiplying villainies of nature
Do swarm upon him – from the Western Isles
Of kerns and galloglasses is supplied,
And Fortune on his damnèd quarrel smiling,
Showed like a rebel's whore. But all's too weak,
10 For brave Macbeth – well he deserves that name –
Disdaining Fortune, with his brandished steel,
Which smoked with bloody execution,
Like Valour's minion carved out his passage
Till he faced the slave,
15 Which ne'er shook hands, nor bade farewell to him,
Till he unseamed him from the nave to th'chaps
And fixed his head upon our battlements.

0 1

Starting with this speech, explore how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character.

Write about:

- how Shakespeare presents Macbeth in this extract
- how far Shakespeare presents Macbeth as a violent character in the play as a whole.

[30 marks]

A04 [4 marks]



Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- Modern prose or drama texts
- The poetry anthology
- Unseen poetry

An Inspector Calls
Love & relationships section

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.



0	1
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How does Priestley present selfishness and its effects in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- examples of selfish behaviour in the play
- how Priestley presents selfishness and its effects.

[30 marks]
AO4 [4 marks]

or

0	2
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How does Priestley present Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society?

Write about:

- some of the things Sheila learns in the play
- how Priestley presents Sheila as a character who learns important lessons about herself and society.



Compare how poets present romantic feelings in 'Winter Swans' and in **one** other poem from 'Love and relationships'.

[30 marks]

Winter Swans

The clouds had given their all –
two days of rain and then a break
in which we walked,

5 the waterlogged earth
gulping for breath at our feet
as we skirted the lake, silent and apart,

until the swans came and stopped us
with a show of tipping in unison.
As if rolling weights down their bodies to their heads

10 they halved themselves in the dark water,
icebergs of white feather, paused before returning again
like boats righting in rough weather.

'They mate for life' you said as they left,
porcelain over the stilling water. I didn't reply
15 but as we moved on through the afternoon light,

slow-stepping in the lake's shingle and sand,
I noticed our hands, that had, somehow,
swum the distance between us

and folded. one over the other.



How can my child revise for English and English literature?

- BBC bitesize:
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>
- YouTube revision clips and tutorials
 - Mr Salles/Mrs Bruff/Mrs Whelan English
 - Also search things like: 'Macbeth themes'
- CPG revision guides available through school at £2.85 each
- Knowledge organisers/revision notes/cue cards
- Re-reading the set texts