

# GCSE English Language

We would like to share the following information with you to assist you in supporting your child to produce their best outcomes for GCSE English Language

## Specification Details

We study the exams set by AQA in both English Language and English Literature. These

The link to the specification can be found below;

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

<b>English Language</b>	<b>What is assessed:</b>	<b>How it's assessed:</b>
<p><b>2 Papers:</b></p> <p><b>Paper 1 – Reading and Responding to Fiction Texts and Creative Writing</b></p> <p><b>Paper 2 – Reading and Responding to Non-Fiction Texts and Non-Fiction Writing</b></p>	<p><b>In Section A, students are tasked with reading fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.</b></p> <p>They are assessed on their ability to understanding how language and structure contribute to the meanings created in the texts.</p> <p>In Paper 2, students are also assessed on their ability to compare texts.</p> <p>Students also complete a writing task in each exam paper. In Paper 1, this is a narrative or descriptive writing task; in Paper 2, students will need to write a non-fiction text which achieves a specific objective – argue, persuade, explain or inform.</p>	<p>100% Exam</p> <p>Each paper is equally weighted.</p> <p>1 hr 45 minutes per paper</p> <p><b>Questions</b></p> <p><b>Reading (40 marks) (25%)</b>– one single text</p> <p>1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)</p> <p>2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)</p> <p>1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)</p> <p><b>Writing (40 marks) (25%)</b></p> <p>1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)</p>
<p><b>Assessment objectives</b></p> <p>Both exam papers have the same objectives.</p>	<p>AO1:</p> <p>identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas</p> <p>select and synthesise evidence from different texts</p> <p>AO2: Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve</p>	

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	<p>effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views</p> <p>AO3: Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts</p> <p>AO4: Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references</p> <p>AO5: Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts</p> <p>AO6: Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)</p>	
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## Exam Dates 2019

**Paper 1:** Writers' viewpoints and Perspectives: 04 June 2019

**Paper 2:** Writers' viewpoints and perspectives: 07 June 2019

## Common Mistakes / Areas for Improvement

### Exam technique

Students should ensure that they have read the extract fully, annotating the text in detail and not just skim reading it.

Students should be aware of the time that they have for each question: for an 8 mark question, a maximum of 10 minutes should be spent on it before moving onto the next task.

Students should ensure that they have planned their written response: know what your ending point will be before starting to ensure that you have a clear structure which builds towards an effective conclusion.

Students should always give the connotations of language and the meanings that specific words or phrases create. Don't just spot the technique and give the meaning.

### What can students do at home?

Ensure that you are confident about the approach needed for each question.

Read fiction and non-fiction extracts as widely as possible.

Develop vocabulary by looking up words that you encounter but do not understand, then try to use these in your own writing.

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<b>Intervention</b>	Students are have been placed in targeted groups for English Language intervention. The department also has access to a range of revision materials that students can access if they would like extra opportunities to study for this GCSE.
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