

GCSE English Literature

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-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>

English Literature	What is assessed:	How it's assessed:
<p>2 Papers:</p> <p>Paper 1 – Shakespeare and 19th Century Fiction</p> <p>Paper 2 – Modern Fiction and Poetry</p>	<p>Paper 1:</p> <p>Students will answer a question on <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>. They will be given an extract which they then must make links to from across the text.</p> <p>Students must then complete a question on <i>The Sign of Four</i>. They will be given an extract which they must make links to from across the text.</p> <p>In Paper 2, students will complete a question on <i>An Inspector Calls</i>. There is no extract for this question.</p> <p>In Section B, students will compare one printed poem from the Power and Conflict cluster in the anthology with a second poem; they will need to choose this second poem from memory and will not have access to it.</p> <p>In Section C, students then respond to an unseen poem, before comparing it to a second unseen poem.</p> <p>Each exam is closed book, meaning that students only have access to the printed material in the exam.</p>	<p>100% Exam</p> <p>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>64 marks</p> <p>40% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 2</p> <p>written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes</p> <p>96 marks</p> <p>60% of GCSE</p>
<p>Assessment objectives</p> <p>Both exam papers have the same objectives.</p>	<p>AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:</p> <p>maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response</p> <p>use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.</p>	

GCSE English Literature

	<p>AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.</p> <p>AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.</p> <p>AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.</p>	
<u>Exam Dates 2019</u>		
<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel: 15 May 2019</p> <p>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry: 23 May 2019</p>		

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 and be ready to move on before the time elapses to ensure they give each question an equal focus. They should aim to spend around 45 minutes on each task.

Students must plan their work to ensure that they do not simply retell the story of the texts. The best answers will offer an argument, then use the extract and the student's wider knowledge of the text to support this argument.

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.

Students must make use of the extract or the printed poem. This offers the opportunity to really analyse language from this extract and to gain vital marks for AO2.

Remember that the characters in the texts aren't real people and, on the whole, the events didn't really happen: they are the construct of writers who wanted to make a specific point about their worlds. Move away from the text and think about what questions the writers wanted to raise and the impact they aimed to have on their reader.

What can students do at home?

Know the text! Students must ensure that they have a working knowledge of the text and be prepared to retrieve this knowledge in pressurised conditions.

Short, sharp revision is more effective than mass practice: continually revisit the texts (events, ideas, themes, language, characters) as often as possible to keep this knowledge fresh.

Make use of the PIXLIT app

GCSE English Literature

Make use of the Knowledge Organisers on the SJN English Sharepoint to ensure that vital knowledge is covered
Make use of the revision guides
Make use of YouTube, SparkNotes, etc to aid revision.
Practice annotating extracts in 10/15 minutes, then make links between this and other events in the texts.

Intervention

Students are have been placed in targeted groups for English Literature 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.

Mr Eskrett and colleagues are available after school for open revision for *any* student who would like support