

English

- Explain the structure and content of the various GCSE examinations in English:
 - English Language and English Literature
 - Double-weighted GCSEs
 - Grades 9-1
- Offer some top tips to get students revising!
- Offer some helpful websites and resources for revision.
- Explain the extended learning opportunities from the English Department.

When are the English exams?

- Wednesday 15 May (Literature - paper 1)
- Thursday 23 May (Literature - paper 2)

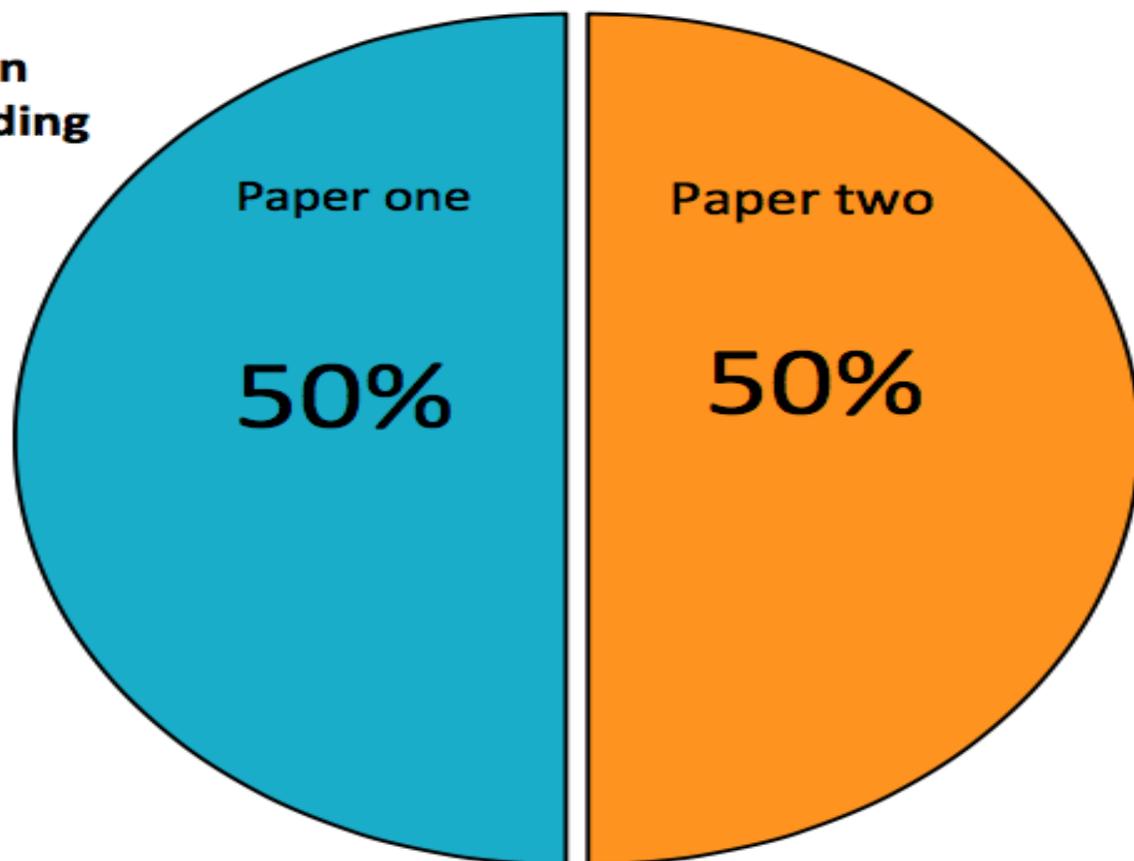
- Tuesday 4 June (Language - paper 1)
- Friday 7 June (Language - paper 2)



- Students will be assessed by exam only. There is no coursework element to either English Language or English Literature.
- All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11 (4 in total; 2 for each GCSE)
- Both language papers are 'unseen'.
- Both literature papers are 'closed book'
- There are no 'tiered' papers. All students will sit exactly the same exams.
- Grades awarded will now range from 1-9.
- 20% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar across the qualification.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

Paper 1:
**Explorations in
Creative Reading
writing (50%)**
1hr45mins



Paper 2: **Writers'
Viewpoints and
Perspectives (50%)**
1hr45mins

What is assessed in GCSE English Language?

- Reading of unseen **fiction** and **non-fiction** texts
- Analysis of **language** and **structural features** within the unseen texts
- Make **comparisons** between the unseen texts
- Writing to describe/narrate/inform/ explain/ argue.
- Write **accurately** and for a range of purposes and audiences.

Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

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)

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)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

What's assessed

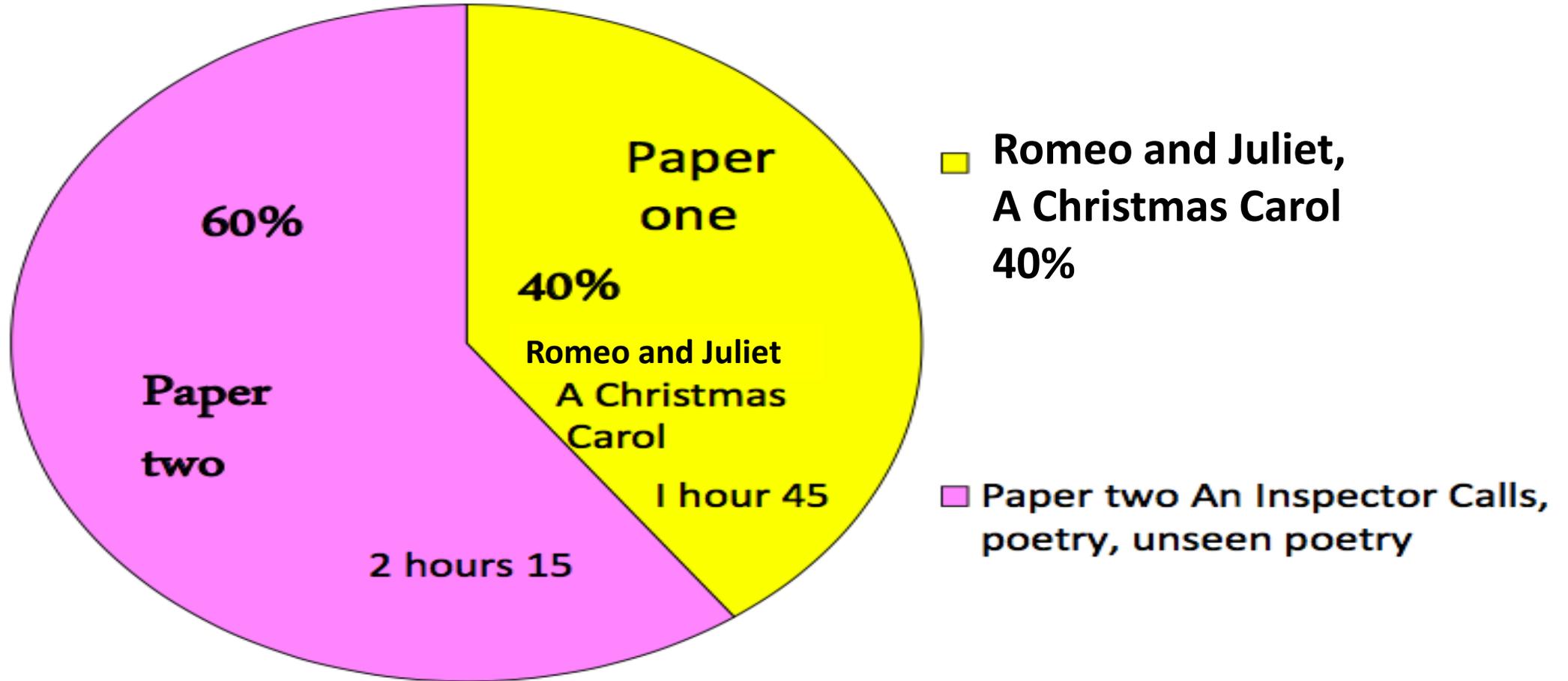
(AO7–AO9)

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of standard English

Assessed

- teacher set throughout course
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0 % weighting of GCSE)

ENGLISH LITERATURE:



What is assessed in GCSE English Literature?

- All exams are **closed-book**
- **Extract- to-whole:** students are given the extract from the Shakespeare play they have studied and the 19th century novel. They must analyse this and make links to the rest of the text.
- Assessed on their ability to
 - Use quotes.
 - Make links to themes.
 - Comment on the social, historical cultural context of the text.
 - Give an opinion about a text.

2 Specification at a glance

Assessments

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- [Shakespeare](#)
- [The 19th-century novel](#)

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.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- [Modern texts](#)
- [Poetry](#)
- [Unseen poetry](#)

How it's assessed

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

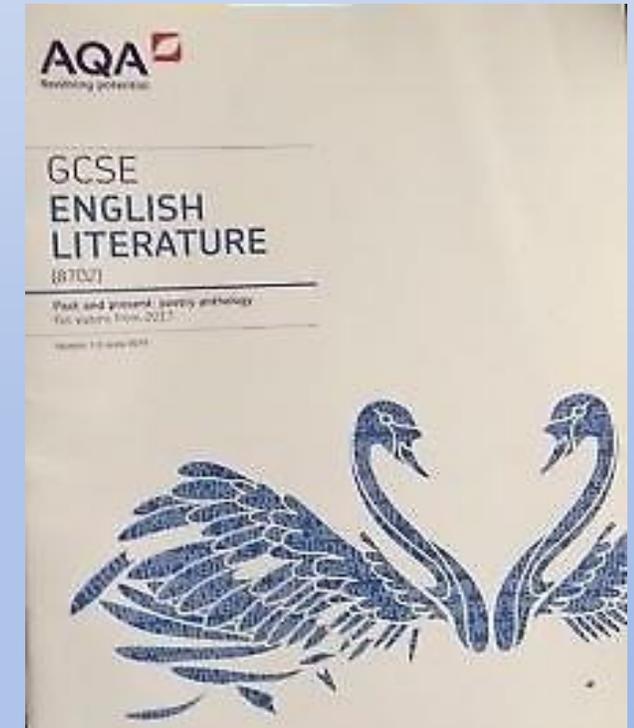
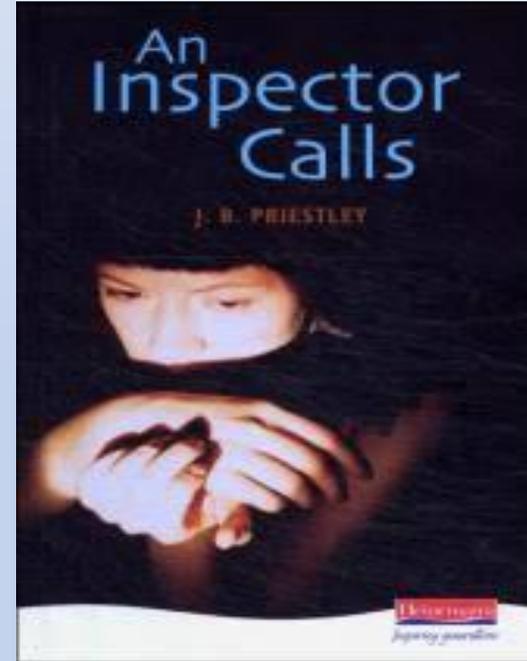
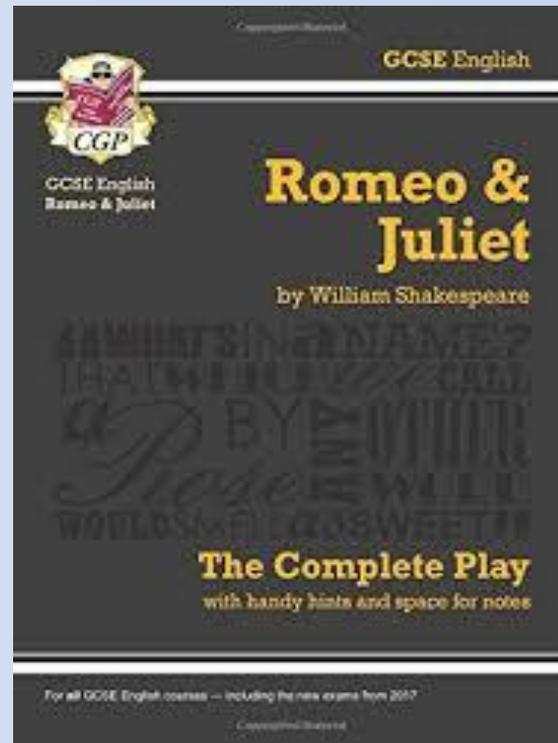
Questions

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.

What texts have we studied for GCSE English Literature?



But you can't revise for English...



What does your child need to be doing at home?

- Read, read, read and re-read the set texts.
- Read as many examples of fiction and non fiction texts as possible.
- Learn and test themselves on quotes from the texts.
- Make plans to sample essay questions.
- Answer essay questions.
- Make theme maps.
- Make character revision maps.
- Create flashcards for each text.
- Use unseen texts (novels, newspapers, magazine articles etc) to identify language and structural features in unseen texts.
- Watch revision videos from GCESPod or use Youtube videos: e.g. Mr Bruff

What can you do to help your child?

- Ensure your child has a suitable environment in which to complete their homework or revision tasks.
- Help them to put together a revision timetable.
- Monitor their diaries and revision timetables. Make sure they are meeting deadlines and adhering to timetables; equally ensure that they are taking suitable breaks!
- Support their revision at home by timing them for practice papers and questions.
- The best way to revise for English is to practise doing English at home.
- Have an understanding of the 'Command' words used in the exams.
- Test your child on key quotes and key words/definitions

Command words used in GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Analyse

Separate information into components and identify their characteristics.

Argue

Present a reasoned case.

Assess

Make an informed judgement.

Comment

Present an informed opinion.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Contrast

Identify differences.

Criticise

Assess worth against explicit expectations.

Debate

Present different perspectives on an issue.

Describe

Give an account of.

Discuss

Present key points.

Evaluate

State how you react when reading the text as in 'evaluate the effects'

Examine

Investigate closely.

Explain

Give reasons.

Find

Select the options that are true (or false).

How does the writer's use of language achieve an effect?

Describe how writers use language to achieve effects/impact (words/phrases/ language features/ language techniques/ sentence forms).

Illustrate

Present clarifying examples.

Review

Survey information.

Suggest

Present a possible case/solution.

Summarise

Present principal points without detail.

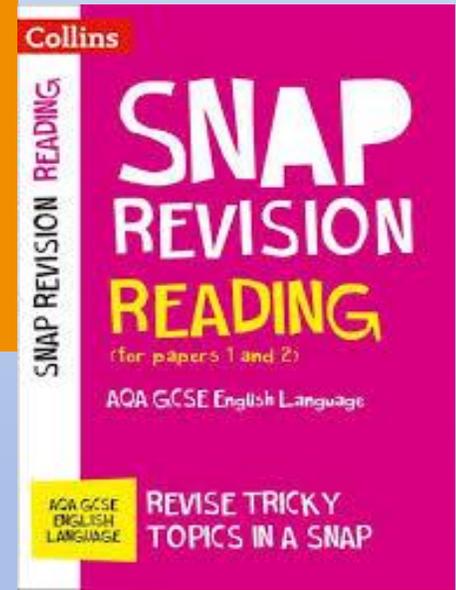
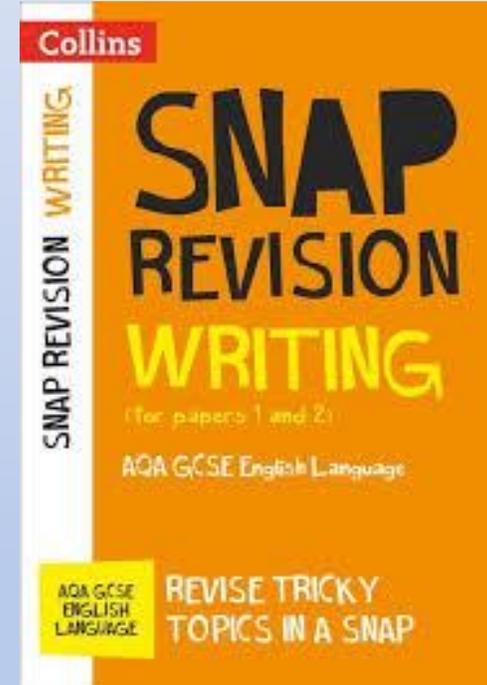
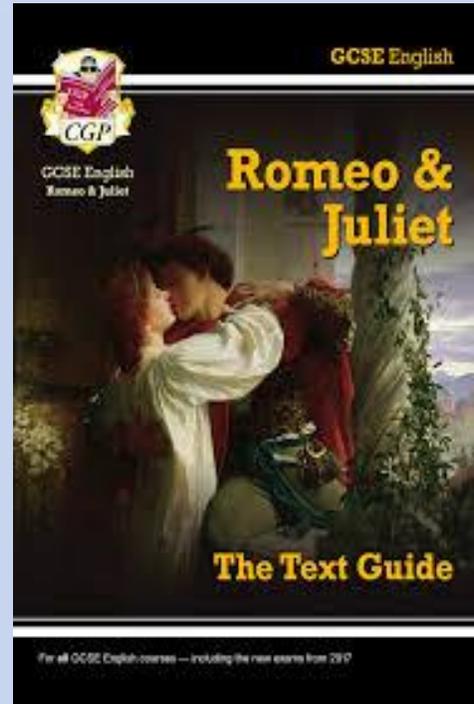
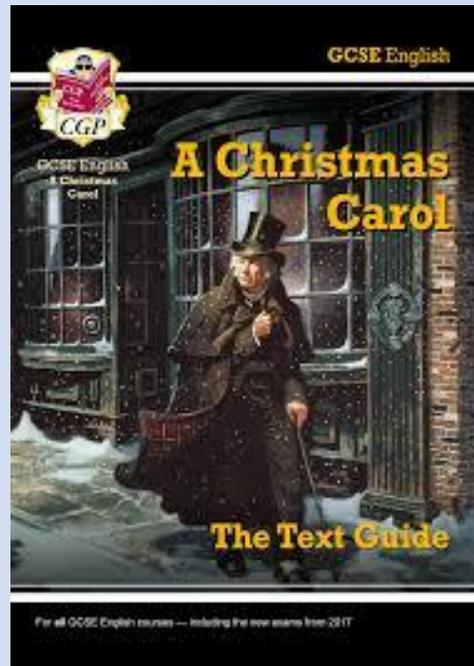
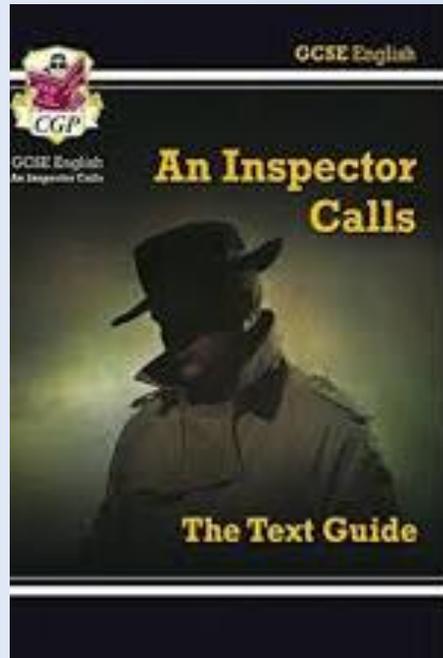
Support

Use quotations/ textual references to evidence your response.

What do you understand

Retrieve and interpret information from a text/s.

Useful revision guides:



What further opportunities are there to support your child?

- **February half-term:** English Literature revision day
- **Easter holidays:** English Language and Literature day
- **Period 6** sessions on a Wednesday focusing on English Literature
- **May half-term:** English Language and Literature day
- English Language and Literature 'drop-in' clinics immediately the afternoon before the exams and morning of the exams.