

GCSE English Language

Exam dates

Paper 1: Wed May 18th

Paper 2: Fri Jun 10th

Exams

Students will sit two exams for English Language in the summer.

Students have been provided with guidance to support the approach we teach for each question. It is important for students to know how to respond to each question to maximise the chances of success.

Students should also be using GCSEPod to revise for GCSE English Language.

Students who do not pass English (grade 4) must resit GCSE English Language during their apprenticeship, training or post-16 education.

Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)

Focus: fiction

One A4 (approx.) extract - 20th century

4 reading questions

1 writing question

Paper 2 (1hr 45mins)

Focus: nonfiction

Two A4 (approx.) extracts - 19th and 21st century

4 reading questions

1 writing question

Paper 1 reading questions

1. Identify 4 things
2. Language analysis
3. Structure analysis
4. Evaluation of a student statement

Paper 2 reading questions

1. Shade in 4 true statements
2. Summary
3. Language analysis
4. Comparing viewpoints

Paper 1 writing

Students will be asked to write a narrative or descriptive piece in the final exam. To support this, students have been working on 3 scenarios that they need to learn.

Paper 2 writing

Students will need to share their viewpoint on a given topic. We know it will be an article for this summer. Students have a structure to use to support success in this question.

Paper 1 descriptive writing structure:

1. Intro
2. 3 scenarios
3. outro

Paper 2 writing structure:

1. Your view and context
2. The main argument
3. The counter argument
4. The future
5. Your final thought

How can parents support their child?

- Encourage revision for English Language: many students are unsure how to revise for English Language.
- Encourage your child to transfer the information from the revision guidance we provide to support their development.
- Ask how they respond to each question – your child should know this!
- Ask your child about the significance of method and effect, the keywords for evaluation and how to summarise a text.
- Ask your child about their scenarios and test them on how well they can remember them.
- Encourage your child to read at home and ask them questions about their understanding.

Exams

Students will sit two exams for English Literature in the summer.

Students have been provided with guidance to support the approach we teach for each question. It is important for students to know how to respond to each question to maximise the chances of success.

Students should also be using GCSEPod and Tassomai to revise for GCSE English Literature.

Paper 1 (1hr 45mins)

Romeo and Juliet (2 parts)
An Inspector Calls

Paper 2 (1hr 20 mins)

A Christmas Carol (2 parts)

Romeo and Juliet

An age-old vendetta between two powerful families erupts into bloodshed. A group of masked Montagues risk further conflict by gatecrashing a Capulet party. A young lovesick Romeo Montague falls instantly in love with Juliet Capulet. Romeo and Juliet is a tragic love story where the two main characters are supposed to be sworn enemies but fall in love. Due to their families' ongoing conflict, they cannot be together, so they kill themselves because they cannot cope with being separated from one another. Romeo and Juliet is a Shakespearean tragedy.

A Christmas Carol

A novella set at a time of celebration when families and friends should spend time with each other. On Christmas Eve, Scrooge is visited by a series of ghosts, starting with his old business partner, Jacob Marley. The three spirits which follow, the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Christmas Present and Christmas Yet to Come, show Scrooge how his mean behaviour has affected those around him. At the end of the story he is relieved to discover that there is still time for him to change and we see him transformed into a generous and kind-hearted human being.

An Inspector Calls

A play that revolves around the apparent suicide of a young woman called Eva Smith. The unsuspecting Birling family are visited by the mysterious Inspector Goole. He reveals that a girl called Eva Smith, has taken her own life by drinking disinfectant. The family are horrified but initially confused as to why the Inspector has called to see them. What follows is a tense and uncomfortable investigation by an all-knowing Inspector through which the family discover that they are all in fact caught up in this poor girl's death.

Romeo and Juliet exam

Part A asks for close language and structure analysis for a given extract.
Part B is an essay question for how a theme is presented across the text (includes context).

A Christmas Carol exam

Part A asks for close language and structure analysis for a given extract.
Part B is an essay question for how a theme is presented across the text.

An Inspector Calls exam

One question from a choice of two in the form of an essay question for how a theme or character is presented across the text (includes context).

How can parents support their child?

- Encourage revision for English Literature.
- Encourage your child to transfer the information from the revision guidance we provide to support their development.
- Ask how they respond to each question – your child should know this!
- Ask your child about the plot, characters and themes for each of the three Literature texts.
- Encourage your child to re-read the texts at home and ask them questions about their understanding.
- Encourage your child to watch the film productions for each of the three texts on ClickView.
- Encourage your child to use GCSEPod, Tassomai and study guides to develop understanding of each of the three texts.