

GCSE English Language



Course Overview

GCSE English Language is one of two GCSEs that you will study in English. All students sit the same exams – there is no higher or foundation tier exams.

There are **two written exams** and one **speaking assessment**. The speaking assessment is usually assessed in Year 10. Throughout the course you will practise your extended writing, and also read a variety of types of texts.

GCSE English Language, along with GCSE Mathematics, is often the most important subject for entry to further study. Even for non-English-related subjects like Medicine, universities and HE providers will expect you to have a good GCSE grade that demonstrates your written and spoken abilities.

What are the topics I will study?

For Paper 1, you will read **modern fiction texts**. Each year the topic is different. You will read a variety of types of fiction text (usually parts of novels) and analysing what happens. You will also practise your creative writing, using a variety of prompts such as sentence starters, titles and images to inspire your creativity.

For Paper 2, you will read **non-fiction texts** on a variety of topics. These can go as far back as the Victorian Era – for example, articles, diary entries, or letters. You will learn to compare points of views and evaluate them using evidence. You will also practice your extended writing of forms such as articles and speeches on a range of topics relevant to you, such as whether schools should have uniforms. These topics change every year on the exam, so we will prepare you to write about a range of ideas.

What skills and knowledge will I develop?

Half of the GCSE exams are based on your **extended writing skills**. This means producing a piece of creative writing, like a short story, as well as a piece of non-fiction writing, such as an article. You will learn how to write in a persuasive manner to a variety of audiences. You will also practice how to write original and engaging stories with a range of vocabulary.

Furthermore, you will continue to practise your **analytical writing skills**, using evidence to analyse modern texts and texts from the nineteenth century. You will get used to reading new content regularly, as the texts on the exams are different every year.

Further reading

The best way to prepare for this GCSE is to read widely or read whatever you love. If you love manga, read lots of manga. If you love history, read lots of history journals and historical fiction. Remember: non-fiction opinion pieces in the newspaper, online blogs or reviews of TV shows, music, films, travel journals or even listening to podcasts are just as helpful as novels and stories.

[AQA | GCSE | English Language | Specification at a glance](#)

Qualification Details

- **Qualification:** GCSE
- **Exam board:** AQA
- Included in the EBACC award

Assessment Pathway

100% examination: 2 exams

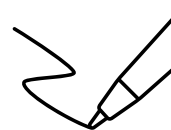
Paper 1 and Paper 2

Possible careers:

- Journalist
- Speech writer
- Solicitor
- Barrister
- Copywriter
- Civil Servant
- Novelist
- Poet
- Comedian
- TV or film script writer
- Grant writer or fundraiser
- Local Councillor
- Politician
- Researcher

Employability Skills:

- **Creativity:** The ability to imagine and create new material will be so helpful when writing your short stories or descriptive pieces.
- **Aiming High:** The ability to use ambitious vocabulary and precise scholarly language will help you to achieve your goals in this exam.



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