

Year 11

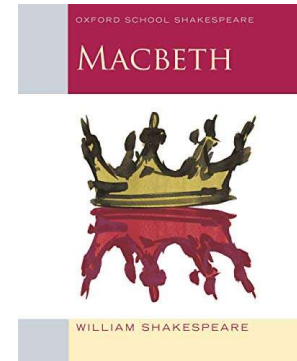
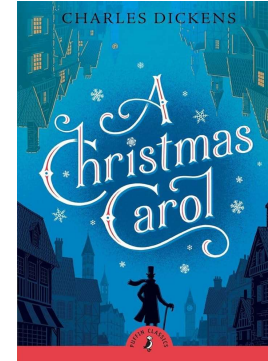
**GCSE English Literature AQA**

**GCSE English Language AQA**

# Overview of the Literature Exam

## Literature Paper 1

Candidates will be expected to answer one question on *Macbeth* and one question on *A Christmas Carol*.



The questions are worth **30 marks**, with an additional **4 marks** available for *Macbeth* for the quality of a candidate's written communication (SPaG).

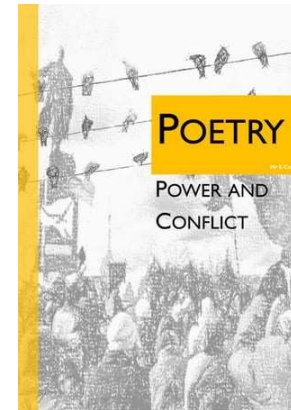
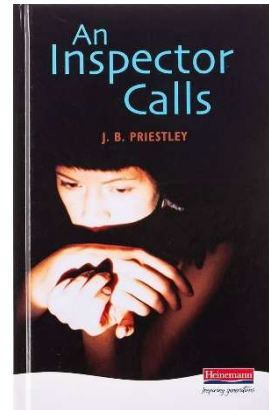
They are assessed on the ability to **read for meaning** and their ability to **understand a whole text**. The exam is **1 hour 45 minutes long** and candidates will have approximately **40-45 minutes on each question** after planning.

The exam is **closed book** and only a **short extract** is given. However, candidates will be expected to link their findings within the extract to the text as a whole.

# Overview of the Literature Exam

## Literature Paper 2

Candidates will be expected to answer one question on *An Inspector Calls*, one question on *Power and Conflict* **poetry anthology** and a two –part question on **unseen poetry**.



## Unseen Poetry



The first two essays are worth **30 marks**, with an additional **4 marks** available for A/C for the quality of a candidate's written communication; the unseen poetry questions are worth **24 marks** and **8 marks**.

They are assessed on the ability to **read for meaning** and their ability to **understand a whole text**. The exam is **2 hours 15 minutes long** and candidates will have approximately **40-45 minutes on each question** after planning, with slightly less for the unseen poetry questions.

The exam is **closed book**; **no extract** is given for A/C although they do have a choice of two questions – one is typically **theme** and one is **character**. Candidates will be given a copy of the chosen poem from the anthology but they will need to **recall quotes from a second poem** for comparison.

# Planning

## Ask these questions...

- What evidence will I provide to support my argument?
- What is the writer's intention in the text?
- What message is the writer trying to convey to the reader?
- How is this demonstrated in this extract and elsewhere in the text?

## Identify the most powerful quotations which epitomise these ideas.

- **Less is more!** Selecting the right quotations is the key to success in the time.
- This planning can be done directly on the source to save time.
- It often helps to number the quotes or ideas in the order that they will appear in the response.

# How to revise for Literature

- **Re-read *Macbeth*, *A Christmas Carol*, *An Inspector Calls*** and the poems from the ***Power and Conflict*** anthology. Watching *Macbeth* or listening to the novel or play is also a time-saving revision tool.
- Create a **timeline** of key plot events in the novel/play.
- Make notes on Post-Its as to **what happens in each act/scene/stave/poem**.
- Create a **wall of quotes** that can be seen every day. Candidates need to be able to quote accurately from different points across the whole text so memorising quotes is crucial!
- Track the **development of key characters** from the start to the middle and then to the end. *How do they change and what are the significant events that cause this?*
- Make a bank of **key subject terminology and the definitions**. Some students have done this on small pieces of card, whole punched to make a key ring. This is most successful when teamed with examples.
- Create a poster which details the most important **historical or social events that would have influenced the writer**. *Where can these influences be seen in the text?*
- Read **model essays** that have been completed and marked. *What are the weaker areas of essay writing that need to be revised? What textual knowledge needs filling in?*
- Complete **practice questions** in timed conditions.
- Utilise the **revision guides** given out by the teacher.
- **Attend after-school revision sessions with the subject teacher.**

# Overview of the Language Exam

## Language Paper 1 – FICTION

Reading section – 1 HOUR (15 MINS SUGGESTED READING TIME)	
Q1 – List 4 things (4 marks)	
Q2 – Focus on <b>language</b> (8 marks)	2 to 3 detailed paragraphs
Q3 – Focus on <b>structure</b> (8 marks)	2 to 3 detailed paragraphs
Q4 – <b>To what extent...</b> Focus on language and structure (20 marks)	4 to 5 detailed paragraphs

# Paper 1 - FICTION

**Writing section – 45 minutes (5 MINS SUGGESTED PLANNING TIME)**

**Q5 – Descriptive writing (40 marks)**

Assessed for creative content, use of methods and SPAG

1 ½ to 2 pages

**You could include...**

- Interesting verbs
- Adjectives
- Similes, metaphors and personification
- Juxtaposition
- Repetition and reiteration of words
- Shift in perspective – big to small/outside to inside
- Narrative perspective
- Isolated words or sentences

**You should consider...**

Semi-colons

Colons

Accurate use of apostrophes

Range of verbs, adverbs and prepositions to open your sentences/paragraphs

# Overview of the Language Exam

## Language Paper 2 – NON-FICTION

Writing section – 45 minutes (5 MINS SUGGESTED PLANNING TIME)

**Q1 – True or false** (4 marks)

shade the boxes

**Q2 – Summary and synthesis** (8 marks)

2 points of synthesis for each source

**Q3 – Focus on language** (12 marks)

3 detailed paragraphs

**Q4 – Comparison** (16 marks)

3 detailed comparative paragraphs



## Paper 2 – NON-FICTION

**Writing section – 45 minutes (5 MINS SUGGESTED PLANNING TIME)**

**Q5 – Opinion writing (40 marks)**

Assessed for creative content, use of methods and SPAG

1 ½ to 2 pages

**You could include...**

- Clear openings and closings
- Aspects of argument or persuasion that support the genre that you are writing for
- Use of second person/collective pronouns to build a rapport with your implied reader
- Anecdotal evidence, if appropriate
- Range of discourse markers and formal openers

**You should consider...**

Genre – What form are you being asked to write in?

Audience – Who is your intended audience?

Purpose – What is the purpose of the piece and what is your overall intention as the writer?

# Key differences between papers

- There is **one source for Paper 1**. Candidates are advised to spend **15 minutes reading** the source, but they may find themselves returning to the source for each of the questions in Section A. Section B is designed to showcase descriptive writing skills and could be **either a description or a story** inspired by a **picture or a theme**.
- There are **two sources for Paper 2**. Different questions will relate to different sources, although **Q2 and Q4 require both sources to have been read**.
- **Top Tip – Time Saver!** Read what is needed for each question. Candidates don't need to have read the whole text until Q3 for Paper 1. For Paper 2, consider answering the questions in a different order to save reading time.

# The tricky questions!

- Paper 1, Question 3 (how writers use structure)
- Paper 1, Question 4 (To what extent...?)
- Paper 2, Question 2 (summary and synthesis)
- Paper 2, Question 4 (comparison of writers' ideas and attitudes)

These are the questions that need the greatest revision and practise.

**Q4 for both papers are the most heavily weighted** questions on the reading section so it always worth revisiting this question at home.

## Things we remind our students...

- **Read the Qs before you read the sources.**
- **Stick to timings!** Follow the rule 'a mark a minute' to answer.
- If needed, **claw back some minutes from Q5.**
- **ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS!**

# How to revise for Language

- Complete mock-up/**practice papers**.
- Make a bank of **methods and the definitions**. Divide the methods into **structure** and **language** by using two different colours of card or felt tips.
- Make sure you know exactly what **each question** on each paper is asking you to do.
- Practice **timings** for each question.
- Read over questions and PRs that have been completed and marked. What are the **weaker questions** that need greater attention? Focus on these questions for revision.
- Go to **GCSE Pod** or **look online for revision videos** and 'How to' guides.
- **Attend after-school revision sessions with the subject teacher.**

# Useful information

Students can find additional support materials...

- In the **revision packs** given out by teachers (the Poetry Revision guide also has handy QR codes with links to other revision websites)
- In **exercise books** (this includes past PR questions with Next Steps to work on)
- In any relevant **CGP guides/revision cards**