



OPTIONS 2026 – English Lit/Lang



GCSE

English Literature and Language

Core Subject

English
Literature



'In the age of AI, computer can now do our data work for us. What we then need in the Google workforce is predominately people who can analyse that data and have critical thinking skills with which to use it to use'

[Addy Osmani](#) Google Cloud AI Director).

GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 1: Section A- Reading

- One literature fiction text

Section B- Writing

- Descriptive or narrative writing

Written Exam

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Paper 2: Section A – Reading

- One non- fiction text and one literary non- fiction text

Section B- Writing

- Writing to present a Viewpoint

Written Exam

80 marks

50% of GCSE

- Spoken Language (accredited)

Key Skills in English Language

- Reading, writing and speaking in Standard English
- Reading a range of 19th Century and 21st Century non-fiction texts
- Writing clearly, competently and using SPaG accurately
- Learning to infer implicit and explicit meanings
- Summarising more than one text/ viewpoints
- Writing comparatively
- Identifying writers viewpoints
- Writing with your own viewpoints on a given topic

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Paper 1- Section A

➤ Shakespeare- Macbeth

Section B

➤ 19th Century Novel- A Christmas Carol

Written Exam

64 marks

40% of GCSE

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry

Paper 2: Section A

Modern text

➤ Pigeon English

Section B:

➤ Poetry

Comparative Essay

Section C:

➤ Unseen Poetry

Written Exam

96 marks

60% of GCSE

Time allowed: 2 hours and 15 minutes

Key Skills in English Literature

- Reading, writing and understanding how texts are shaped
- Reading and writing analytically
- Understanding how context shapes the texts
- Reading and writing to understand how texts are structured
- Identify and analysing how language is used and shapes meaning
- Creating your own interpretations
- Reading a range of modern and literary texts (texts which are written before the 20th Century)
- Studying prose, poetry and drama

Other Important Information

- AQA Exam board
- No coursework= 100% exam
- Grades awarded are from 1-9 (4 being a basic pass)
- Next year you will be put into **4 sets** based on your ability
- Your **year 9 data** will determine which set you will go into
- You teacher can also decide which set to put you in based on behaviour, attitude to learning, engagement etc.
- **This year is a turning point in your school career!**

Some of the Many Career Options...

- Doctor
- Lawyer
- Teacher
- Journalist
- Actor/ actress
- Interpreter
- Freelance Writer
- Social Media Manager
- Publishing/ Editorial
- Analytical careers, such as data management

English GCSE is an entry requirement for almost all degree and A level courses!
High GCSE grades in English needed for medicine and all top level degrees