

## GCSE English Exams: A Summary

### GCSE English Literature

- **Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel (1 hour 45 minutes):**
  - **Section A: Shakespeare**
    - *Macbeth* question: 34 marks, including 4 marks for AO4 (spelling, punctuation, grammar). You are provided with an extract from the play. The essay task requires you to write about the extract and the rest of the play.
  - **Section B: 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel**
    - *A Christmas Carol* question: 30 marks. You are provided with an extract from the novel. The essay task requires you to write about the extract and the rest of the novel.
- **Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry (2 hours 15 minutes):**
  - **Section A: Modern prose or drama**
    - *An Inspector Calls* question: 34 marks, including 4 marks for AO4 (spelling, punctuation, grammar). You are given a choice of two questions: answer one. No extract provided.
  - **Section B: Poetry anthology**
    - Power and Conflict cluster question: 30 marks. You are provided with one poem from the cluster. The essay task requires you to compare the poem provided with one other poem from the cluster.
  - **Section C: Unseen poetry**
    - There are two questions in this section:
      - In question 1 (24 marks) you are given a poem and asked to analyse the poet's presentation of a particular topic or theme.
      - In question 2 (8 marks) you are given a second poem and asked to compare the ways in which both poets present a particular topic or theme.

## GCSE English Language

- **Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing (1 hour and 45 minutes):**
  - **Section A: Reading (1 hour, including reading the source)**
    - You are given Source A, an extract from a piece of fiction (novel or short story). You are then asked a series of four questions:
      - 1: simple reading comprehension (4 marks).
      - 2: analysis of the use of language in a specific part of Source A (8 marks).
      - 3: analysis of the use of structure in the whole of Source A (8 marks).
      - 4: essay-style response to another reader's statement on Source A (20 marks)
  - **Section B: Writing (45 minutes)**
    - You are given a choice of two creative writing tasks (to write a narrative or a description, for example): pick one. A picture stimulus may be used for one of the tasks, and they will be related to Source A (see Section A).
    - This section is worth 40 marks in total: 24 for content and organisation, and 16 for technical accuracy.
    - It is recommended that you plan your piece before writing.
- **Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (1 hour 45 minutes):**
  - **Section A: Reading (1 hour, including reading the sources)**
    - You are given Source A, a piece of modern nonfiction, and Source B, a piece of 19<sup>th</sup>-century nonfiction. You are then asked a series of four questions:
      - 1: simple reading comprehension (4 marks).
      - 2: summary of the differences between an aspect of both Source A and Source B (8 marks).
      - 3: analysis of the use of language in Source B (12 marks).
      - 4: essay-style comparison between Source A and Source B, focusing on the writers' different viewpoints on a particular subject (16 marks)
  - **Section B: Writing (45 minutes)**
    - You are given one writing task (to write a piece of nonfiction, such as a newspaper article), which will specify your audience and purpose. A statement may be used as a stimulus, which may relate to topics in Source A and Source B (see Section A).
    - This section is worth 40 marks in total: 24 for content and organisation, and 16 for technical accuracy.
    - It is recommended that you plan your piece before writing.