

GCSE English – Specification at a glance



GCSE English

Summary of Assessment Structure of Units and Examination Papers

Unit 1: Understanding and Producing Non-fiction Texts		
External examination 40% of the total GCSE marks	2 hours	80 marks
Section A: Reading 20% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour	40 marks
Section B: Writing 20% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour	40 marks

PLUS

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening	
Controlled Assessment 20% of the total GCSE marks	45 marks

PLUS

Unit 3: Understanding and Producing Creative Texts		
Controlled Assessment 40% of the total GCSE marks	6–8 hours	90 marks
Part a: Understanding Creative Texts (literary reading) 20% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	45 marks
Part b: Producing Creative Texts 20% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	45 marks

Note: Times indicate the production of written outcomes.

Unit 1: Understanding and Producing Non-fiction Texts

Section A: Reading

At Tier H candidates answer four compulsory questions based on non-fiction reading sources.
At Tier F candidates answer five compulsory questions based on non-fiction reading sources.

Section B: Writing

At both Tiers candidates do two compulsory writing tasks – one shorter task worth 16 marks and one longer task worth 24 marks.

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening

Candidates must be assessed on three equally weighted activities:

- presenting;
- discussing and listening;
- role playing.

Each activity will be marked separately out of 15 and the marks added together to give a final mark out of 45.

Unit 3: Understanding and Producing Creative Texts

Part a: Understanding Creative Texts (literary reading) – candidates choose one or more tasks from the Controlled Assessment Bank of published titles for the year in which they are entering this unit. They must write about their study of literary texts, drawing on a play by Shakespeare, a text from the English Literary Heritage and a text from a different culture.

Part b: Producing Creative Texts – candidates choose two tasks from the bank of published titles for the year in which they are entering this unit. The two tasks do not have to be equal in length as this will be determined by the type of creative writing they choose to do.