

# 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

<b>External examination</b> 40% of the total GCSE marks	2 hours	80 marks
<b>Section A: Reading</b> 20% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour	40 marks
<b>Section B: Writing</b> 20% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour	40 marks

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### Unit 2: Speaking and Listening

<b>Controlled Assessment</b> 20% of the total GCSE marks	45 marks
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### Unit 3: Understanding and Producing Creative Texts

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