

GCSE English Literature – Specification at a glance



GCSE English Literature

Summary of Assessment

Structure of Units and Examination Papers

Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts		
External examination 40% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour 30 mins	60 marks
Section A: Modern Prose or Drama 20% of the total GCSE marks	45 mins	30 marks
Section B: Exploring Cultures 20% of the total GCSE marks	45 mins	30 marks

EITHER

OR

Unit 2: Poetry Across Time		
External examination 35% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour 15 mins	54 marks
Section A: Poetry cluster from the anthology 23% of the total GCSE marks	45 mins	36 marks
Section B: Responding to an unseen poem 12% of the total GCSE marks	30 mins	18 marks

Unit 4: Approaching Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage		
External examination 35% of the total GCSE marks	1 hour 15 mins	54 marks
Section A: Shakespeare 20% of the total GCSE marks	45 mins	30 marks
Section B: Prose from the English Literary Heritage 15% of the total GCSE marks	30 mins	24 marks

Unit 3: The Significance of Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage		
Controlled Assessment 25% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	40 marks
Note: Times indicate the production of written outcomes.		

Unit 5: Exploring Poetry		
Controlled Assessment 25% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	40 marks
Note: Times indicate the production of written outcomes.		

Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts	
Section A: Candidates answer one question from a choice of two on each set text (30 marks).	
Section B: Candidates answer one question on the set text they have studied. The question will be in two parts (30 marks).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part a will ask candidates to respond to a passage from the text. Part b will ask candidates to link this passage to the whole text.

Unit 2: Poetry Across Time	
Section A: Candidates answer one question, from a choice of two, on the poetry cluster they have studied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Candidates compare one named poem with another poem, chosen by the candidate, from the cluster (36 marks).
Section B: Candidates are given one compulsory unseen poem which will be different on each tier. Candidates answer a compulsory question about the poem which is in two parts at F Tier (18 marks).	

Unit 4: Approaching Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage	
Papers will be available at F and H tiers. This unit offers a traditional approach to assessment of one play by Shakespeare and one prose text from the Literary Heritage.	
Section A: Candidates answer one question from a choice of two on the Shakespeare set text they have studied. The question will be in two parts. Part a will ask candidates to consider a short extract (15 marks) and part b will ask candidates to relate the extract to another part of the play, chosen by the candidate (15 marks).	
Section B: Candidates answer one essay question from a choice of two on the set text they have studied (24 marks).	

Unit 3: The Significance of Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage	
Candidates complete one Controlled Assessment task which asks them to make links between a play from Shakespeare and any other text, of any genre, from the English Literary Heritage (40 marks).	
They may draw on multi-modal versions of the texts, for example stage productions, film and/or audio versions to enrich and inform their understanding of the text.	

Unit 5: Exploring Poetry	
Candidates complete one controlled assessment task which asks them to make links between a range of poems which must cover contemporary poetry and poetry from the English Literary Heritage. Poems from the AQA Anthology may be used for this unit. (40 marks)	
They may draw on multi-modal versions of the poems, for example poetry in performance and/or audio versions to enrich and inform their understanding of the texts.	