

English Language GCSE Information Sheet

AQA GCSE: English Language Specification <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Examination Information:

GCSE English Language is assessed by examination. There are two written language examinations. Students are examined on their reading and comprehension skills in section A of each paper and their writing skills in section B of each paper. There is also a spoken language assessment which is assessed by their teacher.

Paper 1 is the fiction paper. Students are asked questions about ONE fiction text; they also have to produce a descriptive or narrative piece of writing. This paper is worth 50% of the language GCSE.

Paper 2 is the non-fiction paper. Students are asked questions about TWO non-fiction texts (one from the 19th Century); they also have to produce a piece of persuasive writing such as a newspaper article or speech. This paper is worth 50% of the language GCSE.

The spoken language assessment is assessed by the class teacher and takes the form of a prepared speech. This assessment is marked pass/ merit/ distinction and reported on exam certificates; it does *not*, however, contribute to the English Language graded.

How you can support your child:

A quiet space to work and a regular routine for completing homework: English homework is set on Class Charts every week and is due in on Mondays. There are revision sessions on Tuesdays for English – encourage your child to attend these.

To achieve the best possible overall grade for English GCSE we strongly recommend that students get into the habit of regular revision. All forms of reading – fiction/non-fiction; print/online - will help improve reading speed, which is a key determiner in a students' success in the comprehension sections of their English Language exams

There are also study guides available for GCSE language such as CGP guides.

Key Websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zt3rkqt> BBC Bitesize

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff> Mr Bruff does great you tube videos on English

<https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/> Seneca offers useful interactive revision activities

<https://www.mathsociety.org.uk/gcse-english-revision>: A useful overview and links to videos and exam walkthroughs.

Moodle:

Revision resources, including knowledge builders are available to support students with their revision.

If you have any queries at any time please do not hesitate to contact the English Curriculum Area via the school phone number or email: info@ladymanners.derbyshire.sch.uk