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## AQA English Literature

A Guide to 9-1 GCSE Literature



# A guide to the 9-1 English Literature GCSE



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In this guide we will take a look at the new GCSE English Literature qualification.



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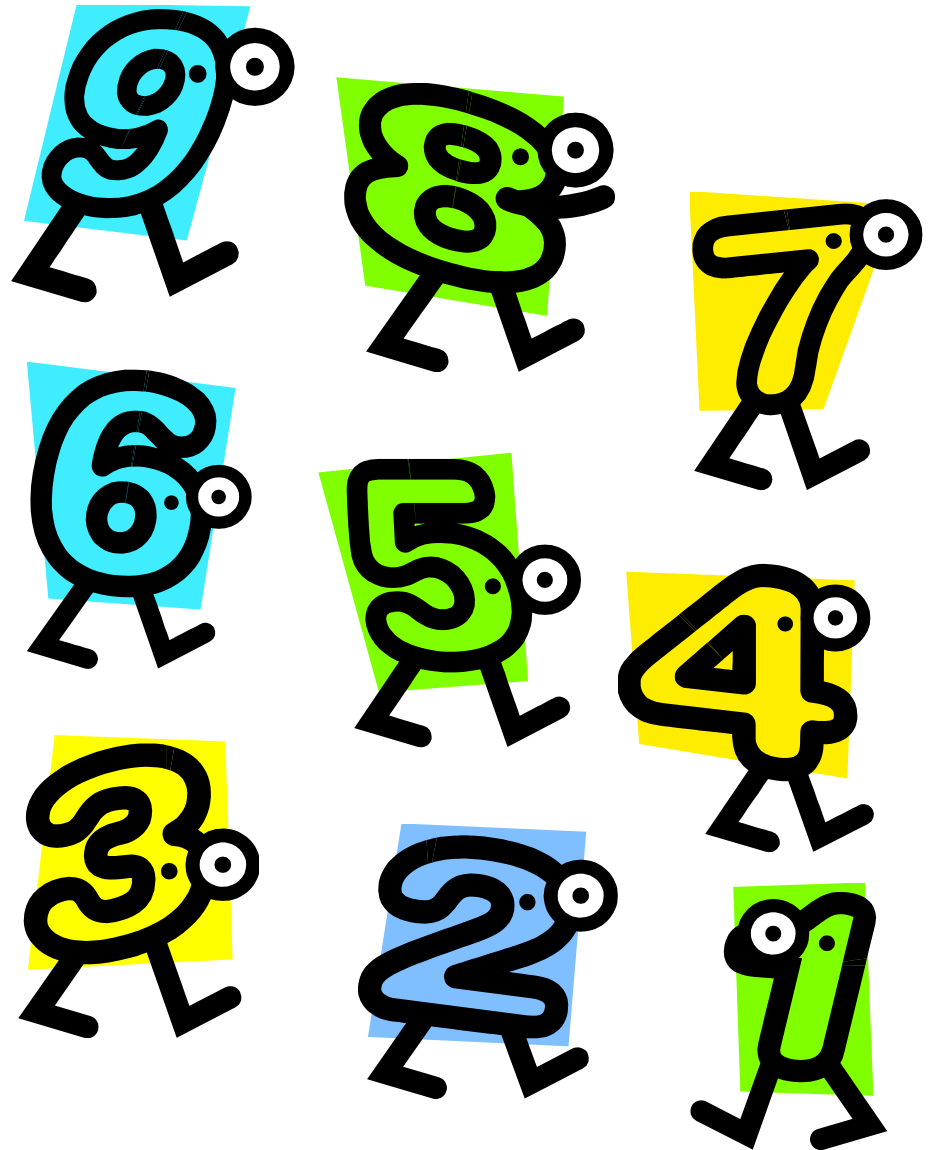


The AQA 9-1 GCSE English Literature qualification is an **untiered** qualification. The assessment consists of **two externally examined papers**.

It is a linear qualification so **all examination papers must be taken at the end of the course**.

# GCSE English Literature

The qualification will be graded and **certificated** on a nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade.



# AQA GCSE English Literature

## Subject Content

To gain a GCSE English Literature qualification students must provide assessments in the following areas

1. Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel.
2. Modern texts and poetry.

Let's look in more detail at the first area of assessment:

**'Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel'**

This is assessed in **Paper 1** of the GCSE English Literature exam.

Let's take a closer look at the exam.

## How is **Paper One** assessed?

### Section A: Shakespeare

- write about a studied play

### Section B: C19th Novel

- write about a studied novel

### Assessment Breakdown

- A written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks available
- Worth 40% of the GCSE

In **Section A** you will answer one question on a Shakespeare play. You will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

In **Section B** you will be asked to answer one question about a C19th novel. You will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

The Paper One exam will last 1 hour and 45 minutes. It is worth 64 marks and makes up 40% of the English Literature GCSE.



Now let's look at the second area of assessment :-

**'Modern texts and poetry'**

This is assessed in **Paper 2** of the GCSE English Literature exam.

Let's take a closer look at **Paper 2**.

# How is **Paper Two** assessed?

**Section A: Modern texts**

**Section B: The poetry anthology**

**Section C: Unseen poetry**

## Assessment Breakdown

- A written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes
- 96 marks available
- Worth 60% of the GCSE

In **Section A** you will answer one essay question from a choice of two on your studied modern prose or drama text.

In **Section B** you will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from your chosen anthology cluster.

In **Section C** you will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

The Paper 2 exam will last 2 hours and 15 minutes. It is worth 96 marks and makes up the other 60% of the English Literature GCSE.

Assessment Objectives (AOs) are set by Ofqual and are common to all GCSE English Literature specifications and all exam boards.

The exams will assess how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

- A01: (35-40%) Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to:
  - ✓ maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response.
  - ✓ use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
  
- A02: (40-45%) Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
  
- A03: (15-20%) Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
  
- A04: (5%) Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

In each specification as a whole, 20-25% of the marks should require candidates to show the abilities described in A01, A02 and A03 through tasks which require them to make comparisons across texts.

# Links

## Links to AQA exam papers

### [AQA Specimen Exam Papers](#)

