





## English GCSEs 2027



- **AQA English Language**
- **AQA Speaking and Listening**
- **AQA English Literature**

**ALL Pupils will sit 4 papers and a speaking and listening task**



## English Language



**WEIGHTED AT 50% per paper**

- **PAPER 1: Exploration in creative writing and reading (20/21<sup>st</sup> century fiction text) (1hr 45 mins)**
- **PAPER 2: Writer's viewpoint and perspective (2 texts – 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20/21<sup>st</sup> century non-fiction + literary non-fiction texts) (1hr 45 mins)**

**8700/1 Paper 1 – Monday 24th May 2027**

**8700/2 Paper 2 – Tuesday 8th June 2027**



## Assessments



All texts in the examination will be unseen.

### Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

#### What's assessed

##### Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

#### Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

#### Questions

##### Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

##### Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

### Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

#### What's assessed

##### Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

#### Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

#### Questions

##### Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

##### Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)



# Non-Exam Assessment

The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:

- giving a presentation in a formal context
- responding appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification
- using spoken Standard English.

No more than 10 minutes

Pass, Merit, Distinction awarded

## Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

### What's assessed

(AO7–AO9)

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

### Assessed

- teacher set throughout course
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)



## English Literature



**PAPER 1: 40%**

**PAPER 2: 60%**

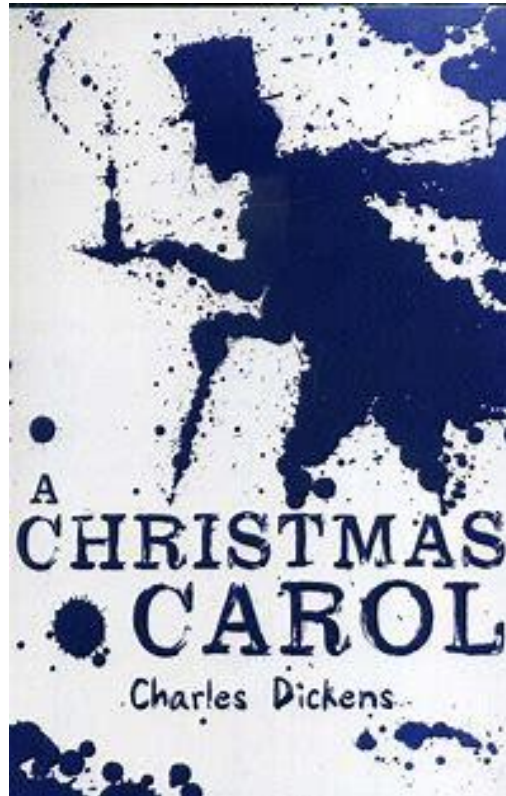
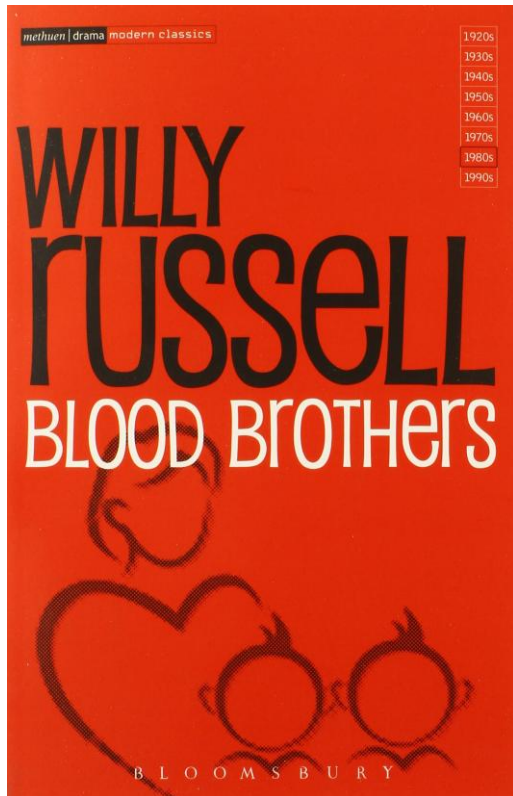
- **PAPER 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel (1hr 45 mins)**
- **PAPER 2: Post 1914 Literature and Poetry Since 1789 (2hr 15 mins)**

**8702/1 Paper 1 – Wednesday 12th May 2027**

**8702/2 Paper 2 – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2027**



# Pre-Taught Literature Year 10



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## Conflict and Power

### AQA Poetry Anthology

#### Literary Heritage

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Percy Shelley        | <i>Ozymandias</i>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Blake        | <i>London</i>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Wordsworth   | <i>The Prelude: stealing the boat</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Browning      | <i>My Last Duchess</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alfred Lord Tennyson | <i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilfred Owen         | <i>Exposure</i>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seamus Heaney        | <i>Storm on the Island</i>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ted Hughes           | <i>Bayonet Charge</i>                  |

#### Contemporary poems

- |   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Simon Armitage   | <i>Remains</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jane Weir        | <i>Poppies</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Ann Duffy  | <i>War Photographer</i>        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imtiaz Dharker   | <i>Tissue</i>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carol Rumens     | <i>The Émigrée</i>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beatrice Garland | <i>Kamikaze</i>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Agard       | <i>Checking Out Me History</i> |



# Pre-Taught Literature Year 11

OXFORD SCHOOL SHAKESPEARE



**MACBETH**

OXFORD SCHOOL SHAKESPEARE

**OR**



**ROMEO  
AND JULIET**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Conflict and Power**

### **AQA Poetry Anthology**

#### Literary Heritage

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Percy Shelley        | <i>Ozymandias</i>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Blake        | <i>London</i>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> William Wordsworth   | <i>The Prelude: stealing the boat</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Browning      | <i>My Last Duchess</i>                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alfred Lord Tennyson | <i>The Charge of the Light Brigade</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wilfred Owen         | <i>Exposure</i>                        |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Beatrice Garland | <i>Kamikaze</i>                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> John Agard       | <i>Checking Out Me History</i> |



## Assessment structure

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

- 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks, 40% of GCSE.
- Section A: One extract-based question plus whole-text response on chosen Shakespeare play.
- Section B: One extract-based question plus whole-text response on chosen 19th-century novel.

### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

- 2 hours 15 minutes, 96 marks, 60% of GCSE.
- Section A: One essay question on chosen modern text.
- Section B: One comparative question on one printed poem and one other from studied anthology.
- Section C: One analysis and one comparison of two unseen poems.

### Assessment objectives

- AO1: Critical style, personal response, use of textual evidence.
- AO2: Analysis of language, form, and structure.
- AO3: Understanding of literary context.
- AO4: Accuracy in vocabulary, spelling, and grammar.



## Mocks Summer 2026

- **All students will be sitting:**

English Literature Paper 2 (2hr 15minutes) **Monday 22nd June 2026**

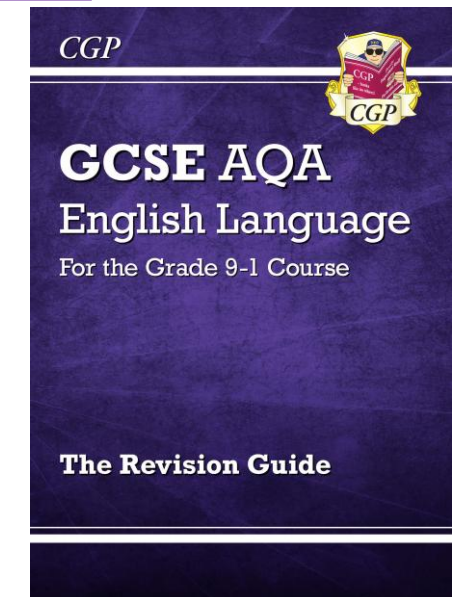
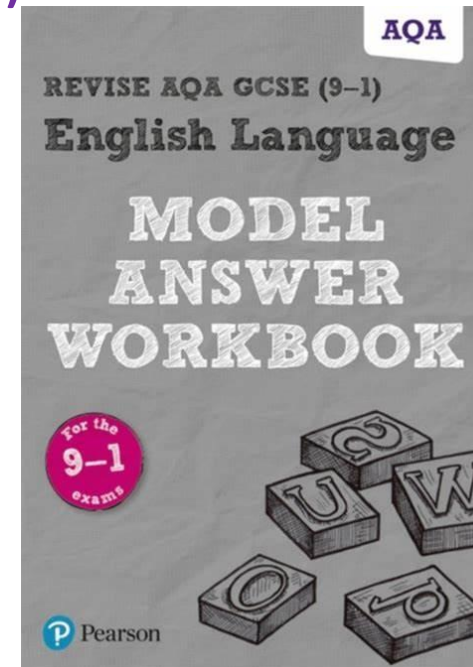
English Language Paper 2 (1hr 45 minutes) **Monday 29th June 2026**

- **Check class charts for revision lists and guidance from your class teacher**



## What can you do to support your child with preparing for their English mock papers?

- Purchase revision guides
- Revisit pre-taught texts (audio books/film adaptations)
- Encourage them to complete practice questions
- Test them with flash cards
- Encourage them to read widely





# Recommended Reads



Key statistics in reading (2024 findings)

Just 1 in 3 (34.6%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said they enjoyed reading in 2024. This is the lowest level since we first asked the question in 2005.

Only 1 in 5 (20.5%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 said that they read daily, again, the lowest levels since 2005.

Children and young people who enjoyed reading (n = 1,211; M = 109.13) had higher average (mean) standardised reading scores than children and young people who didn't enjoy reading (n = 2,593; M = 102.65). This difference was statistically significant.

## 20/21<sup>st</sup> Century fiction

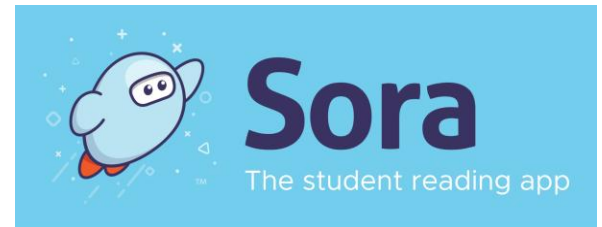
- Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
- The Knife of Never Letting Go – Patrick Ness
- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
- Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
- Lord of the Flies – William Golding

## 20/21<sup>st</sup> Century non-fiction

- Touching the Void – Joe Simpson
- Diary of a young girl – Anne Frank
- Boy: Tales of Childhood – Roald Dahl

## 19<sup>th</sup> Century non-fiction

- The Art of Travel – Francis Galton
- Darwin's Beagle Diary – Charles Darwin





Mr Bruff question-by-question run through



## Mr Bruff

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I am an English teacher dedicated to making AQA GCSE English Language and Literature ...more

[mrbruff.com](http://mrbruff.com)

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## SPARX Reader



**A Christmas Carol**  
Charles Dickens



**Animal Farm**  
George Orwell



**Macbeth**  
William Shakespeare



**Romeo and Juliet**  
William Shakespeare




# Sparx Reader

You are logging into:  
**Portchester Community School**

[Switch school](#)

Log in as a student or teacher

 Log in to Sparx using Microsoft

Can be accessed from home and has original text and abridged versions available  
Tests comprehension throughout



Any further questions/queries...

[a.spence@portchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:a.spence@portchester.hants.sch.uk)  
[h.vernon@portchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:h.vernon@portchester.hants.sch.uk)

Or contact your English teacher directly.





## A reminder of Key Dates:

Monday 22nd June - Literature Paper 2  
(BLOOD BROTHERS AND POETRY)

Monday 29th June - Language Paper 2  
(NON-FICTION)

