

GCSE (9-1) English Literature

Key features

Engaging texts for all learners.

- Hundreds of teacher responses shaped our **text lists**, with a mixture of **tried-and-tested** texts proven to inspire and challenge the full ability range (such as *Animal Farm* and *Lord of the Flies*), alongside newer options chosen by you.

Extensive poetry support.

- A wide range of **Romantic**, **heritage** and **contemporary** poetry arranged into three broad themes in our anthology: **Relationships**, **Conflict**, **Time and Place** and **Belonging** – allowing you the opportunity to choose a collection that is right for your students.
- Our current centres have told us how valuable our **support materials** around poetry are for their students. We'll provide **lesson plans** for each of our poems, along with a **digital anthology** of material such as audio recordings of the poems and support for the comparison requirements.

Comparison of poetry.

- We know that comparison can be a challenging skill for some learners to master, and there is a requirement within GCSE English Literature for learners to compare seen and unseen texts. Our comparison will always be tackled through poetry: through **one question comparing two studied anthology poems**, and one question asking learners to **compare two unseen poems**, which will always be modern. There will be no cross-genre comparison.

Use of extracts to support effective language analysis.

- All the examinations will be closed book. In order to facilitate close language analysis, we have developed extract-based questions to ensure that the right skills are being assessed.

A range of question types to support all learners.

- Using what we have learned from our previous GCSE and Certificate papers, we have employed a combination of question types to help students access both the more complex texts and the assessment objectives. For example, both our Shakespeare and 19th century questions are split into two to help students focus on a **short extract for close language analysis** and then answer a **longer question** to show their knowledge of the whole text.

Assessment at a glance

Paper 1	1hr 45 mins (50%)	Paper 2	2hrs 15 mins (50%)
Section A: Shakespeare		Section A: 19th Century fiction	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two questions – one based on an extract of approximately 30 lines and one on the whole play.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two questions – one based on an extract of approximately 400 words (provided for students) and one based on the whole novel.	
Section B: Post-1914 British Drama or Fiction		Section B: Poetry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Students study EITHER drama or fiction.• Choice of essay questions.• Vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation are assessed.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• One question comparing one named poem from the chosen anthology collection, and another anthology poem of the students' choice from the same collection.• One question asking students to compare two unseen contemporary poems.	
Choice of texts			
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakespeare: <i>Macbeth</i>, <i>The Tempest</i>, <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>, <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>, <i>The Merchant of Venice</i>, <i>Twelfth Night</i>.• British fiction or drama: <i>Animal Farm</i>, <i>Lord of the Flies</i>, <i>Anita and Me</i>, <i>The Woman in Black</i>, <i>An Inspector Calls</i>, <i>Hobson's Choice</i>, <i>Blood Brothers</i>, <i>Journey's End</i>, <i>The Empress</i>, <i>Refugee Boy</i>.• 19th century novel: <i>Jane Eyre</i>, <i>Great Expectations</i>, <i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>, <i>A Christmas Carol</i>, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>, <i>Silas Marner</i>, <i>Frankenstein</i>, <i>Boys Don't Cry</i>, <i>Coram Boy</i>.			



Mapping documents from your current exam board

To help make the transition from your current exam board as easy and straightforward as possible, we have created three mapping documents for you to download:

AQA mapping chart

OCR mapping chart

Eduqas mapping chart



Past exam papers and mark schemes

We know how important it is to see examples of exam papers, questions and mark schemes when looking at switching exam boards.

You can download our most recent past papers and mark schemes below:

New text additions

Based on overwhelming feedback from you about the choice of texts available for KS4 students to study, we've recently added two new texts, two novels and a poetry collection to our GCSE (9-1) English Literature qualification.

We hope that by adding these texts we are providing your students with a greater selection of voices and authors from different backgrounds, to study and engage with.

