Open access to resources for home educators, private tutors and private candidates

The majority of the resources on our webpages are open access. A few resources have a silver padlock. This is either because they contain material with copyright restrictions (anthologies), or because teachers in schools and colleges require an assessment to remain secure for a period so that they can use it as a mock assessment.

Silver-padlocked documents can only be accessed by Edexcel teachers in Edexcel centres who have an Edexcel Online login.

Unfortunately, home-educators, private tutors and private candidates cannot have such a login as these are managed by exams officers in schools.

Everything you need to deliver any of Edexcel’s English qualifications, except anthologies, can be accessed without a login. Materials which are locked so that they can be used for mock exams are usually unlocked 9 months after the assessment was live.

Unlocked assessment material

Every qualification has a substantial range of unlocked assessment material as GCSEs in English have been sat since 2017 (2 series per year for English Language) and Int GCSEs (4 sets of papers per year for each qualification) since 2018:

International GCSE English Language A (16 sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment material
Specimen paper

International GCSE English Language B (16 sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment material
Specimen paper

International GCSE English Literature (16 sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment material
Specimen paper
Students may like to purchase the student books for each of our International English GCSEs. Please note, there is no accompanying ‘teacher book’. Tutors/parents may purchase a subscription to the online teacher resources, but these are intended for front of class teaching and do not provide ‘answers’ to student book activities.

GCSE English Language 1EN0 (10 sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment material

Specimen papers 1 & 2


GCSE English Language 2.0 (sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment materials

Specimen paper

The first assessment of this qualification was in May/June 2022. There are two sets of past exam papers (summer and November 2022 which remain padlocked, along with a padlocked specimen paper and secure mock).

GCSE English Literature (8 sets of open access papers)

Sample assessment materials

Specimen papers 1 & 2

Summer 2017, summer 2018 and summer 2019, November 2020, and November 2021 papers under ‘exam materials’

Students may wish to purchase various student books and revision materials for our three English GCSEs.

Getting a copy of an Edexcel published anthology

Please note that students may not take a copy of an Edexcel anthology into any exam, so students do not require a clean hard copy for any Edexcel English examination.

In the first instance, the centre where a home-educated or private candidate is entered for their exam is responsible for providing a candidate with any material that they need which is padlocked on the Edexcel website, including anthologies.

Home educators, private tutors and private candidates requiring hard copy Edexcel anthologies may email teachingenglish@pearson.com providing their postal address and details of which anthology they need to request a free copy:

GCSE English Literature: Poetry
International GCSE English Language and English Literature anthology
A level English Literature Shakespeare critical anthologies (comedy and tragedy)
A level English Language and Literature: voices anthology
Private candidate access to padlocked past papers after an entry has been made

Private candidates who have been entered for an exam series and require access to padlocked exam materials to support their exam preparation, may request access.

Clare Haviland
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