Mapping the AQA Specification to the

Pearson Edexcel GCSE in English Language

AQA	Pearson Edexcel
50% Reading, 50% Writing	50% Reading, 50% Writing
Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 1 hour 45 mins (50%)	Paper 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing 1 hour 45 mins (40%)
 Section A Reading an unseen 20th or 21st-century fictional prose text. Responding to a range of question types. Section B One imaginative writing task from a choice of two. Linked to theme of reading text in Section A. Photos included as a prompt. Includes marks for vocab, spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Section A Reading an unseen extract from a 19th-century fictional prose text. Responding to a range of question types. Section B One imaginative writing task from a choice of two. Linked to the theme of the reading text in Section A. for vocab, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives 1 hour 45 mins (50%)	Paper 2 Non-fiction and Transactional Writing 2 hours 5 mins (60%)
 Section A Response to unseen extracts from 19th-century and either 20th or 21st-century texts (one fiction and one literary non fiction). Including comparison between the two texts. 	 Section A Response to unseen 20th/21st-century texts (one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction). Including comparison between the two texts.
 Section B One transactional writing task (no choice of question). Linked to the theme of the reading text in Section A. Includes marks for vocab, spelling, punctuation and grammar. 	 Section B One transactional writing task from a choice of two. Linked to the theme of the reading text in Section A. Includes marks for vocab, spelling, punctuation and grammar.
 Spoken Language Endorsement Spoken Language Individual presentation skills Explain, describe, narrate; discuss, argue, persuade. 	 Spoken Language Endorsement Spoken Language Individual presentation skills Explain, describe, narrate; discuss, argue, persuade.
Kev Similarities	

Key Similarities

- Unseen extracts from 19th, 20th and 21st-centuries to assess reading
- Imaginative and transactional writing requirement
- Spag assessed in the writing question of each paper (Section B)
- Exactly the same requirements for the Spoken Language assessment across all awarding bodies
- This can be simply carried over.

Key benefits of the Pearson Edexcel Specification

- The 19th-century extract is always a fictional text in the Pearson Edexcel paper, allowing crossover with GCSE Literature
- There is a **choice of question** for the transactional writing task.



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AQA

Pearson Edexcel

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Shakespeare

One essay question with two parts, one focussing on the extract given in the paper and the other on the whole

19th-century novel

One essay question with two parts, one focussing on the extract given in the paper and the other on the whole

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature 1 hour 45 minutes (50%)

Shakespeare

One essay guestion with two parts, one focusing on the extract given in the paper and the other on the whole

Post-1914 Literature

One essay question on chosen play or novel from a choice of two. Questions focus on the text as a whole. A quotation from the text is given.

Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry 2 hours 15 minutes (60%)

Modern texts

One essay question on chosen modern text from a choice of two. Questions focus on the text as a whole.

Poetry

One question comparing two poems from the AQA Anthology.

Unseen Poetry

Two questions: one question on an unseen poem and one question comparing two unseen poems.

Paper 2: 19th-century Novel and Poetry 2 hours 15 minutes (50%)

19th-century novel

 One essay question with two parts, one focussing on the extract given in the paper and the other on the whole novel.

Poetry

Two questions: one comparing two poems from the Anthology and the other comparing two unseen contemporary poems.

Texts

- Shakespeare: Macbeth, The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, The Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar
- Modern text: Inspector Calls, Blood Brothers, Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, Anita and Me, History Boys, DNA. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, A Taste of Honey, Telling Tales, Never Let Me Go, Pigeon English
- **19th-century novel:** Jane Eyre, Great Expectations, Jekyll and Hyde, Christmas Carol, Pride and Prejudice, Frankenstein, The Sign of Four.

Texts

- Shakespeare: Macbeth, The Tempest, Romeo and Juliet, Much Ado About Nothing, The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night
- Post-1914 British play/novel: Inspector Calls, Blood Brothers, Lord of the Flies, Animal Farm, Anita and Me, Hobson's Choice, Journey's End, The Woman in Black, The Empress, Refugee Boy, Boys Don't Cry, Coram Boy.
- **19th-century novel:** Jane Eyre, Great Expectations, Jekyll and Hyde, Christmas Carol, Pride and Prejudice, Frankenstein, Silas Marner,

Key Similarities

- Choice of texts
- Shakespeare and 19th-century exam questions have the same requirement one part of the question based on extract given in the paper and the other part on the whole play.

Key benefits of the Pearson Edexcel Specification

- Additional option of 'Time and Place' cluster of poems, and new 'Belonging' poetry collection added (2019) giving greater choice
- A quotation from the play/novel is given in the question on the modern text to support students
- One question on unseen poetry, rather than two.

