GCSE (9-1) English Language

Key features

The 19th century requirement will always be met via one stand-alone fiction text.

- This provides additional exposure to the sorts of **literary heritage texts** students will encounter in English Literature.
- It will be straightforward for you to find **similar texts** for teaching and learning.

Comparison of modern non-fiction texts.

- This ensures **comparison** is not limited to differences in language between older and more contemporary texts.
- Students will be able to develop the skills required to analyse **real-world, relevant non-fiction texts** of a sort they will encounter in their lives (e.g. newspaper and magazine articles, book reviews, obituaries, speeches, letters, biographies).
- Again, it will be straightforward for you to find **similar texts** for teaching and learning.

Clear, straightforward paper structure.

- Both papers have a clear identity (Paper 1 = **fiction/creative;** Paper 2 = **non-fiction/ transactional**), so it is clear to students what to expect in each case.
- The higher weighting for Paper 2 reflects the **additional work** (comparison, two reading texts) expected of learners in this paper.

All writing is supported by a stimulus, with the reading as a model.

- Each of our papers is linked by a **theme**, which means the reading provides students with a stimulus and a model for their own writing.
- There is a **choice** of writing tasks per paper.
- There is an optional set of **images** to provide an additional stimulus for learners in the creative writing section.

Support for the key challenges.

- Our digital English Language **Unseen Preparation Anthology** will provide **exemplar texts** for you to use in the classroom.
- We will provide exclusive sets of *Gramar for Writing* lesson plans to support progress in writing, and *Let's Think in English* materials to build confidence with unseen texts.

Assessment at a glance

Paper 1
1hr 45 mins (40%)

Section A:
Unseen 19th century fiction

- Extract will be **approximately 650 words** in length.
- Shorter response questions will focus on **close reading** of the text; longer response questions will ask students to show their understanding of the whole text.

Section B:
Creative writing

- Choice of two tasks linked to the theme of the 19th century fiction.
- One task will include images as an optional stimulus for learners.
- Assessing writing for audience and purpose, tone, style and register as well as grammatical and structural features, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

Paper 2
2hrs 5 mins (60%)

Section A:
Comparison of two unseen texts from the 20th and 21st century

- One will be non-fiction; the other literary non-fiction.
- Extracts will be **up to 1000 words** in total.
- Shorter response questions will focus on the **close reading** of the individual texts; a longer response question will ask students to compare the writers' use of language.

Section B:
Transactional writing

- Choice of two tasks linked to the theme of the comparison texts.
- Newspaper articles, letters etc.
- Assessing writing for audience and purpose, tone, style and register as well as grammatical and structural features, vocabulary, sentence structure, spelling and punctuation.

Spoken Language endorsement

- Presenting, listening to questions and responding, and the use of standard English.
- Teacher set and assessed.
- Separate endorsement reported as a separate line on the certificate.

Learn more about English Language with Pearson Edexcel

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

You said, we did

Since 2015 we have continually listened to feedback on our GCSE (9-1) English Language qualification and have made a number of improvements based on your feedback.

Take a look

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:

November 2018
Paper 1

November 2018
Paper 1
Mark Scheme

November 2018
Paper 2

November 2018
Paper 2
Mark Scheme

Download all of our past live papers, mark schemes and examiner reports here

GCSE

You said, we did!

Whether it be the variety of training we offer, the quality and structure of our exam papers or the diversity of our texts, we always want to hear from you about ways in which we can do even better.

Since 2015, we have continually listened to feedback on our GCSE (9-1) English qualifications and have made a number of improvements based on your feedback.

You said...	What's changed?	Effective from
Students don't have enough time to answer all of the questions in Paper 2, 1EN0/02	5 minutes has been added to the assessment time	2019
It is unclear what's required of students in Q3 and Q7b in 1EN0/02	Structured bullet points have been added to give clarity	2019
It's taking longer than it should for students to answer the short-answer questions	Q2 and Q5 now target AO1 'identify information and ideas'	2019

"I'm thrilled to hear this!"

"Brilliant news"

"So pleased to hear this!"

To read the full amendments we've made and to find out more about Pearson Edexcel English qualifications, please visit: quals.pearson.com/paper2