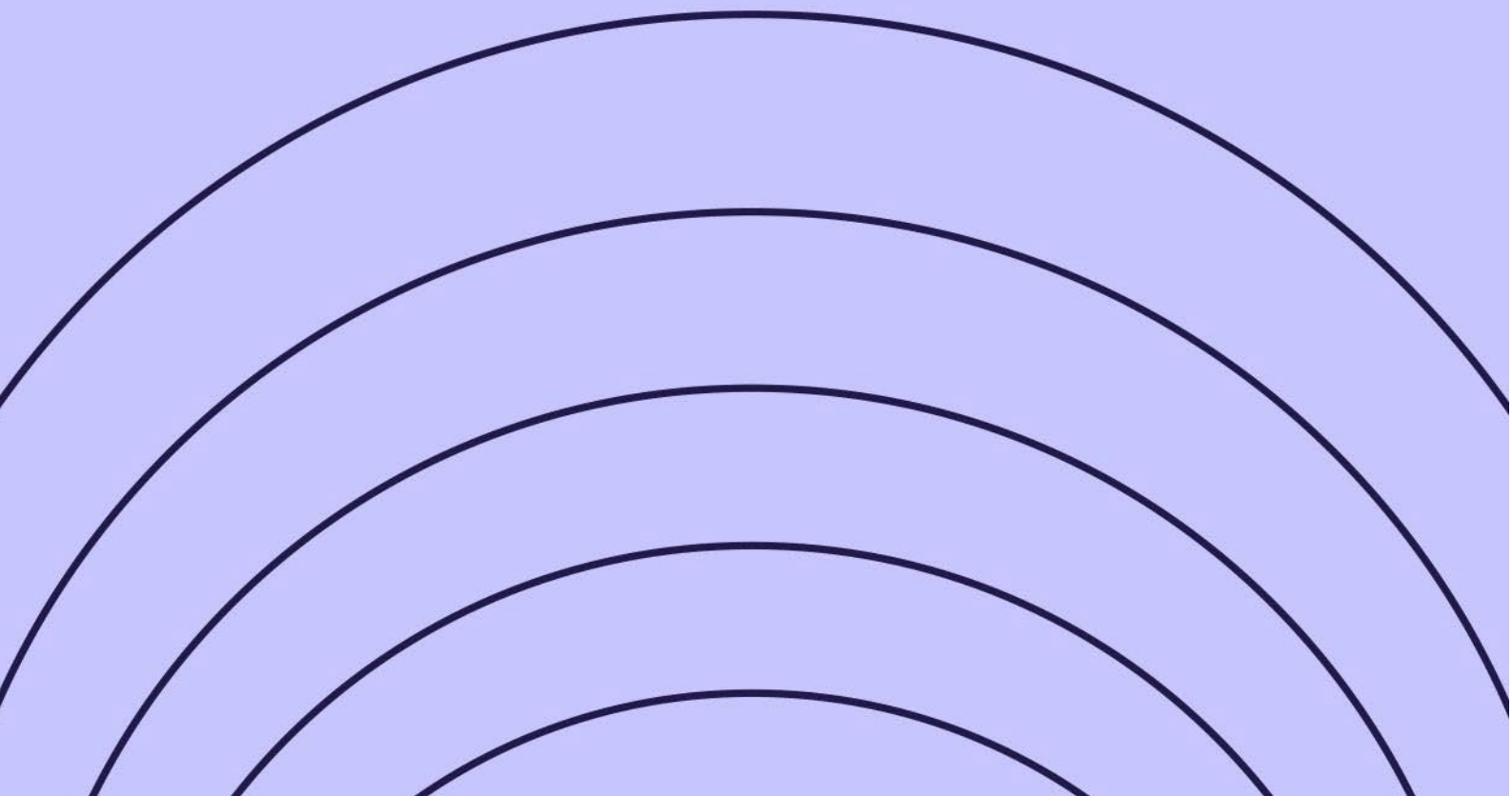




Post-16 English Language Insights

GCSE English Language 2.0
Summer 2025



GCSE English Language 2.0 (1EN2)

Insights into the Summer 2025 Exam Series for Post-16 learners

Introduction

These insights show you how post-16 learners have performed in the Summer 2025 examination series. Although the assessments are the same for all students taking GCSE English Language 2.0, this guidance shows specifically how post-16 learners performed on each question.

For all questions on both papers, we have provided the mean marks for post-16 students alongside 16-year-olds. This highlights areas of success as well as skills which need further development.

In this insights document we will highlight key areas for improvement and how we can provide you with further support in developing students' skills.

You will find further feedback in the [Examiner Reports](#) on the website as well as the [Exam Insights training pack](#).

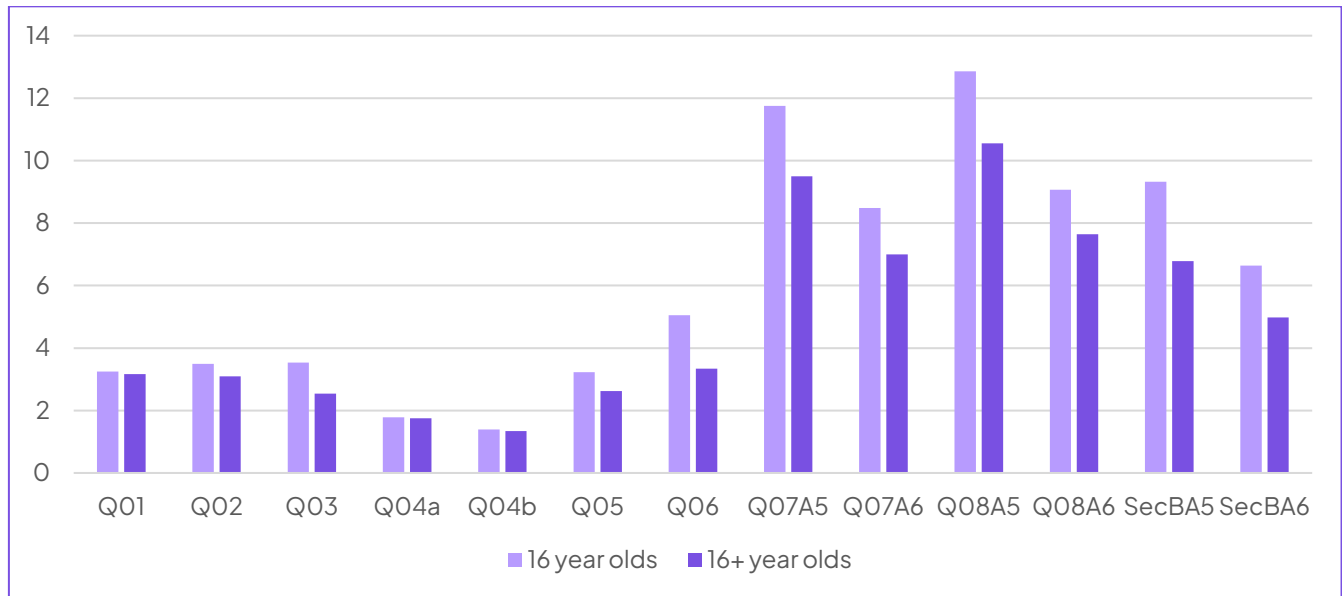
GCSE English Language 2.0 (1EN2) Cohort

The Summer 2025 cohort for GCSE English Language was made up of 90% entries from post-16/FE colleges and 10% schools. We are often asked by FE Colleges for specific data on the post-16 cohort so we hope you find this useful.

The data below shows the performance of 16 year olds and 16+ year olds on Paper 1 and Paper 2. It shows the mean mark achieved for each question and we can compare the performance for the 2 groups, split by age.

Paper 1 Insights

Mean marks per question by candidate age



Question	AO	Max mark	Mean Mark (16 year olds)	Mean Mark (16+ year olds)
Q01	AO1	4	3.25	3.16
Q02	AO4	6	3.49	3.09
Q03	AO2	8	3.53	2.54
Q04a	AO1	2	1.78	1.75
Q04b	AO1	2	1.39	1.34
Q05	AO4	6	3.23	2.62
Q06	AO4	12	5.05	3.34
Q07	AO5	24	11.75	9.50
	AO6	16	8.48	7.00
Q08	AO5	24	12.86	10.55
	AO6	16	9.07	7.64

Areas of success

Question 1

1 Identify **four** points the writer makes about the manners of boys and girls.

1

2

3

4

(Total for Question 1 = 4 marks)

The vast majority of post-16 learners achieved 3 or 4 marks for this question, with the **average mark 3.14**. Learners are very adept at AO1 retrieval questions and complete them without any problem, with many achieving the full 4 marks.

Areas for development

Question 6

6 For this question refer to the whole of Text 2.

'In my view, this text shows that there is a problem with young people's behaviour.'

Based on your evaluation of the text, how far do you agree with this opinion?

Use examples from the text to support your evaluation.

(12)

This question requires an extended AO4 response on the whole text. It stands out in Paper 1 **Section A, Reading**, as the most challenging question for learners.

Question 7 and 8 (non-fiction writing)

EITHER

***7** Write a blog aimed at your peer group with the title 'How to behave'.

A student has started a response to this task.

There has been a lot of talk recently about the way people behave towards each other. While it is important to have good manners, I have decided to come up with my suggestions for rules that might help us all to get along better. So here they are, together with my reasons why I think they are important.

Continue this blog using your own ideas.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

(Total for Question 7 = 40 marks)

OR

***8** Write an article for a local newspaper about the lack of facilities for young people in your area, with the title 'More needs to be done'.

You should include:

- why there is a problem
- what facilities you suggest
- how these facilities might benefit the community.

**Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.*

(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)

The scores for writing are moderate, but lower for Post-16 students than 16 year olds. Post-16 learners scored lower marks on Paper 1, non-fiction writing, than they did on Paper 2 creative writing.

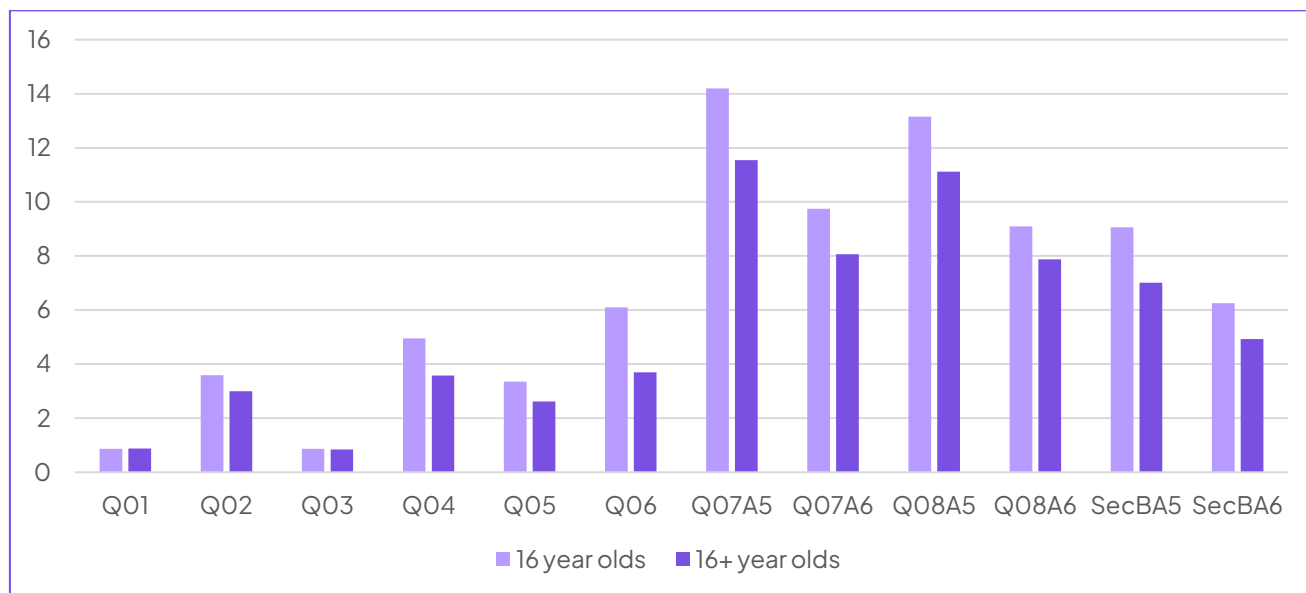
Question/AO:	Q7 AO5	Q7 AO6	Q8 AO5	Q8 AO6
16 year olds mean mark	11.75	8.48	12.86	9.07
16+ mean mark	9.5	7	10.55	7.64
Total marks	24	16	24	16

Support for Paper 1:

- [AO4: Developing the skills pack](#)
- [AO5/AO6: Developing the Skills](#)
- [Examiner report Paper 1](#)
- [Scheme of Learning](#)

Paper 2 Insights

Mean marks per question by candidate age



Question	AO	Max mark	Mean Mark (16 year olds)	Mean Mark (16+ year olds)
Q01	AO1	1	0.87	0.88
Q02	AO2	6	3.59	3.00
Q03	AO1	1	0.87	0.84
Q04	AO2	10	4.95	3.58
Q05	AO1	6	3.35	2.62
Q06	AO3	16	6.10	3.70
Q07	AO5	24	14.19	11.54
	AO6	16	9.75	8.07
Q08	AO5	24	13.16	11.12
	AO6	16	9.10	7.88

Areas of Success

Question 1

1 From lines 1–6, identify **one** way the writer shows that getting out of the prison cell is difficult.

(Total for Question 1 = 1 mark)

Post-16 learners excelled at the question and **outperformed their 16 year old counterparts**.

Again, this shows a high level of skill on the AO1 retrieval questions, where the vast majority of learners achieved the mark.

Question 3

3 Read this extract.

Mike Hanlon ran past the Church School without pausing and pelted straight up Neibolt Street toward the Derry trainyards. He was trying to pace himself, trying to control his breathing, not yet going all out. Henry, Belch, and Moose Sadler presented no problems; even relatively fresh they ran like wounded buffalo. Victor Criss and Peter Gordon, however, were much faster.

As the trainyard gate with its sign loomed up, Mike was forced to let himself out to the limit.

There was no pain – his breathing was rapid yet still controlled – but he knew everything was going to start hurting if he had to keep this pace up for long.

From the extract, identify **one** way the writer suggests that Mike is still in control of the situation.

(Total for Question 3 = 1 mark)

- Q1 and Q3 (both 1 mark AO1): post-16 learners were on par with 16 year olds (+0.01) on Q1; they all do these questions without any problem and the vast majority gain the mark.
- Q2: post-16 performance is slightly weaker -0.5 mean mark compared to 16 year olds.

Areas for development

Question 6

6 Compare the writers' ideas and perspectives about trying to escape.

You should compare:

- the main ideas
- the points of view
- the presentation of these ideas and views.

Use examples from both texts to support your comparison.

(16)

This is the final reading question in Section A and the most demanding. It requires an extended AO3 comparison of both texts and is worth 16 marks.

Post-16 learners scored an average of 3.7 marks on this question. However, when looking at the most common mark awarded, the mode mark for this question is 0 marks. This suggests that many post-16 learners wrote very little or did not attempt this question at all.

Question 7 and 8 (creative writing)

<p>EITHER</p> <p>*7 Write an imaginative piece that starts with the line:</p> <p>'Was this the right way?'</p> <p><i>*Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Total for Question 7 = 40 marks)</p>
<p>OR</p> <p>*8 Write about a time when you, or someone you know, had to work hard for something.</p> <p>Your response could be real or imagined.</p> <p>You may wish to base your response on one of the images or use any ideas of your own.</p> <p><i>*Your response will be marked for the accurate and appropriate use of vocabulary, spelling, punctuation and grammar.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">(Total for Question 8 = 40 marks)</p>

Scores for writing are moderate, but lower for Post-16 students than 16 year olds. Interestingly, learners scored higher marks for Paper 2, creative writing, than they did on Paper 1 non-fiction writing.

Question/AO	Q7 AO5	Q7 AO6	Q8 AO5	Q8 AO6
:				
16 year olds mean mark	14.19	9.75	13.16	9.1
16+ mean mark	11.54	8.07	11.12	7.88
Total marks	24	16	24	16

Support for Paper 2:

- [AO3: Developing the Skills](#)
- [AO5/AO6: Developing the Skills](#)
- [Examiner report Paper 2](#)
- [Scheme of Learning](#)