

FAQs for Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) English Language 2.0

1. Is this new GCSE aimed predominantly at post-16 learners?

This new GCSE is for learners looking for a less literary route, and for students considering a different, less traditionally literary and more functional, pathway. It also gives post-16 learners needing to re-sit the opportunity to experience a fresh approach.

2. Is GCSE 2.0 replacing the current GCSE English Language 1EN0?

No, GCSE 2.0 is a new GCSE that we are offering as an alternative to 1EN0, not as a replacement. We now have two GCSEs for centres to choose from.

3. What is the official title for this new GCSE in English Language?

The official title is GCSE (9–1) English Language 2:0. We chose '2.0' to distinguish this GCSE from our existing one in order to avoid any confusion for teachers and learners.

4. Can the qualification be delivered across one or two years of study?

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) English Language 2.0 develops skills across reading, writing and spoken language. The Assessment Objectives are common across all awarding bodies' English Language GCSEs. We know that our FE colleges enter students after one year of study and this GCSE reflects that.

For schools wishing to offer GCSE 2.0, the qualification can be delivered over a two-year course of study, or taken after one year with entries made in the second year.

5. What is the contact time (teaching hours) of this qualification?

In line with other GCSEs in English Language, there are 120 Guided Learning Hours allocated to this GCSE.



6. Does this new GCSE carry the same marks as the GCSE English Language qualifications from 2015? (i.e. is it the same teaching time but more condensed?)

This GCSE is comparable and holds exactly the same weight as all other GCSEs in English Language, therefore the subject marks (160) are identical. As mentioned, the common Assessment Objectives across the different GCSEs allows for centres to switch exam boards during the course of study.

7. Is Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) English Language 2.0 worth the same as the existing GCSEs in English Language?

Yes, Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1) English Language 2.0 is accredited by Ofqual and holds exactly the same weight as all other GCSEs in English Language (9–1) that are currently available.

GCSE 2.0 counts in schools' performance measures in exactly the same way as existing GCSEs in English Language.

Students' achievements on GCSE 2.0 are of exactly the same value as the existing GCSEs in English Language.

8. How does this new GCSE aim to support post-16 learners in particular?

The value of this new GCSE is exactly the same as the existing GCSEs in terms of standards and grading. Differences are found in the question styles, the text types and the non-literary focus of the 19th-century text choices. We have made the texts more relevant and engaging and included more scaffolding in the writing tasks to support students.

This new GCSE is accredited by Ofqual and holds the same weight as all other GCSEs in English Language. The design of this GCSE reflects feedback from teachers about a style of assessment that will better suit some learners.

9. How are the papers weighted and why?

There are two exam papers in this GCSE, Paper 1 Non-fiction and Paper 2 Contemporary Fiction. They are weighted equally at 50% (and 80 marks each).

Redistribution of the Assessment Objectives and marks make the final assessments equally weighted and therefore equal stakes. Due to the difference in the assessments (to the current GCSE [9–1] English Language) the AOs have been distributed appropriately for the text types in each paper.

In order to fulfil an equal weighting of marks across the two papers and to support students in their study and revision, we have included all AO4 evaluation marks in Paper 1 Non-Fiction and all AO3 comparison marks in Paper 2 Contemporary Fiction.

We have not removed anything from the requirements of the current GCSE, we have simply redistributed the marks.

10. What sort of texts will be used in the assessments?

The 19th-century requirement will be met in Paper 1 using non-fiction, functional, texts. Rather than one long 19th-century text, we will use two shorter pieces in the assessments. We will include an image with the first, shorter, text in order to support students.

Students will be able to relate to the contemporary 20th- and 21st-century texts in Paper 2.

To focus students on the relevant lines, both papers will include the shorter extract required to answer that specific question, printed above the question.

Examples of extracts in the Unseen Anthology which exemplify the style of texts which may be selected for assessments:

Paper 1

Extract from *Practical Lessons and Examples for the Improvement of Youth* – an illustrated guide for children, explaining why it is rude for children to yawn when they are in public (1825).

Extract from *The New York Sun* – newspaper article about Harriet Tubman (1896), American abolitionist who helped dozens of enslaved people to freedom using the escape networks of the Underground Railroad.

Paper 2

Extract from *Jaws*, Peter Benchley (1974).

Extract from *Life of Pi*, Yann Martel (2001).

11. How many specimen papers will be available?

We will be making the following available:

- Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)
- two sets of specimen papers
- an additional Anthology of unseen texts with suggested questions and tasks to use in teaching and learning.

12. Can students re-sit GCSE 2.0?

Yes – the re-sit rules are identical to existing GCSEs. Students may re-sit GCSE (9-1) English Language providing they are 17 years of age or over on or prior to the 31 August in the academic year in which they wish to resit.

There will be a November and summer exam series for Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English Language 2.0.

13. How will this GCSE support students who have missed teaching time and, as a result, fallen behind in their GCSE English study?

This new GCSE qualification takes a fresh approach and aims to reinvigorate both students and teachers after such a challenging period.

With this GCSE offering something different, we hope that it will offer a new way of

engaging students with English Language. As you will see from the SAMs and the anthology, the texts are relevant and engaging for students who may have otherwise been put off by having to study 19th-century fiction or having to use 19th-century non-fiction to make comparisons with more modern fictional texts.

Students can use modern, transactional texts as a way of accessing the 19th-century non-fiction texts. By reading a variety of transactional texts, this will help develop students' evaluative judgements of the texts. Using modern (as well as 19th-century texts) offers the opportunity to see how society has changed over time. During the course of study, students will also engage with topics and themes with universal relevance, such as those featured in the SAMs.

14. When can we start teaching GCSE 2.0?

You can start teaching from September 2021, with the first exam (and certification) in summer 2022.

15. Do candidates taking GCSE 2.0 have to submit the Spoken Language Endorsement?

Yes. The requirement for and assessment of the Spoken Language Endorsement (SLE) is identical to the existing GCSE English Language. There is no change to the SLE.

16. Do re-sit candidates have to re-submit the Spoken Language Endorsement?

A student who is re-taking GCSE English Language (post-16) may re-use a previous result for the Spoken Language Endorsement, even if it was awarded by another awarding body.

The result for the Spoken Language Endorsement may be transferred even if the overall grade at GCSE achieved is unclassified.

17. Can GCSE 2.0 be co-taught with GCSE English Literature?

While this GCSE has been designed with students following a less traditionally literary pathway in mind, there is no reason why it cannot be co-taught with GCSE English Literature. GCSE 2.0 is equal to all other GCSEs in English Language.

18. Does GCSE 2.0 carry the same weighting in Progress 8 scores?

Yes, GCSE 2.0 has exactly the same value and carries the same points as all other GCSEs in English Language.

