

Presenting our new GCSE English Literature qualification

Structure

The Pearson Edexcel new GCSE English Literature qualification is an **untiered** qualification.

The assessment consists of two externally examined papers.

It is a **linear qualification** so all examination papers must be taken in the same series at the end of the course.

Paper 1:

Shakespeare and post-1914 literature

50% weighting



Section A: Shakespeare (25%)

Two questions; one on an extract and one on the whole novel.

Section B: Post 1914 British drama or novel (25%)

Choice of essay questions.

Paper 2:

19th century novel and poetry since 1789

50% weighting



Section A: 19th century novel (25%)

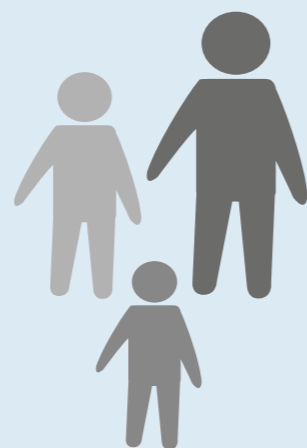
Two questions; one on an extract and one on the whole novel.

Section B: Poetry (25%)

One question comparing a named poem from the collection with another from the collection in the anthology.

Comparison of two unseen contemporary poems.

Our research with teachers and other key stakeholders from FE, HE and the wider English community told us **students at KS4 needed to read texts in greater depth** and be encouraged to read a variety of texts. We have therefore welcomed the inclusion of 4 set texts and the assessment of unseen literature within the criteria set by the DfE.



Set texts: These texts have been chosen following the results of a number of online questionnaires with teachers, focus groups, one-on-one interviews and discussions with a number of key English stakeholders. As you will see, there are some new and exciting texts to engage students as well as some texts that you will have resources for.



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The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade.

Paper 1 focuses on **Shakespeare and post-1914 literature**. Our expert panel and the teachers we spoke to preferred this grouping as it gave them the freedom to cover two drama texts in one examination or to introduce some prose into both the examination units.

We are very experienced in setting Shakespeare in an examination, as we introduced this within our pilot and currently use an extract based Shakespeare question within our GCSE English papers.

We have continued this question style and have two questions: one based on an extract and one on the whole play. This way, students will be able to focus on close textual analysis of Shakespearean language in one question and then write about their knowledge of the whole play in the second question.

Our stakeholders have also told us that students need to be able to respond to essay style questions in order to progress to GCE, so this paper also includes a longer, essay response to either a British post -1914 prose text or drama.

Paper 2 is a longer paper as it includes three different questions. The first section has two questions on the student's choice of 19th century prose. The first question will be extract based and the second will ask students to refer to the whole novel. This approach allows students to focus on 19th century language analysis as well as show their knowledge of the whole novel.

The second section of this paper focuses on **poetry**.

The first question will be on one of the set anthology poems.

Students will answer a question comparing a poem they have studied from their chosen anthology collection with another of their choice from the same collection.

We will print the poem on the paper as the subject criteria don't permit students to take texts into the examination.

The second question will require them to compare two unseen contemporary poems. As this is an untiered paper, the poems will be suitable for all students and the question has scaffolding bullet points to help students shape their response.

Shakespeare:

Macbeth

The Tempest

Romeo and Juliet

Much Ado About Nothing

Twelfth Night

The Merchant of Venice

Post-1914 British play or novel

A choice of one text from the following:

An Inspector Calls – J B Priestley

Hobson's Choice – Harold Brighouse

Blood Brothers – Willy Russell

Journey's End – R C Sherriff

Animal Farm – George Orwell

Lord of the Flies – William Golding

Anita and Me – Meera Syal

The Woman in Black – Susan Hill

19th-century novel

A choice of one text from the following:

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – R L Stevenson

A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Silas Marner – George Eliot

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

Pearson Poetry Anthology*

A choice of one collection from the following:

Relationships

Conflict

Time and Place

Each collection contains 15 poems and includes Romantic, Literary Heritage and Contemporary poetry.