

September 2020

# FAQs for changes to International GCSE (9-1) English Literature (4ET1) for May/June 2021

In response to feedback from English teachers to the **Ofqual consultation** on arrangements for the 2021 exams, we reduced the teaching and learning burden of the GCSE (9-1) English Literature by removing one text from the assessments in 2021. As our International GCSE (9-1) English Literature is a comparable qualification, we have also removed a text from the summer 2021 exams.

## How has the teaching and learning burden been reduced for summer 2021?

Section B: Anthology Poetry has been removed from Paper 1. On Paper 1, students will answer Section A: Unseen Poetry and then Section B: Modern Prose.

## Will the question papers and mark schemes be different?

Paper 1 will be changed to reflect the omission of Anthology Poetry. This change will affect the total marks available in the paper as well as the overall timing of the paper. Paper 1 will have a duration of one hour and 20 minutes, 35 minutes for Unseen Poetry and 45 minutes for Modern Prose as in the 'normal' paper.

Paper 2 and Paper 3 (coursework) are unchanged.

## How does this change affect the weightings of the Assessment Objectives (AOs)? Does this matter?

The removal of Anthology Poetry affects the overall distribution of the assessment objectives but there are no changes to which assessment objectives are assessed on each question. Our main priority is to ensure that students, who may have been adversely affected by the impact of Covid-19, are able to be assessed on a manageable quantity of texts. This is the focus for all of the Joint Council of Qualification boards for May/June 2021.

## **What if I've already studied Anthology Poetry?**

Although Anthology Poetry won't be assessed in May/June 2021, there will still be a poetry question on Unseen Poetry. Any preparation already done for the Anthology Poetry can be applied to the Unseen Poetry question, but this means students will not have to revise the 16 poems and consider how poems may be paired.

Any learning already done will also be beneficial to students who choose to proceed to International A Level or A level in English Literature, as they will have had the experience of learning about poetry at KS4.

## **What about the loss of comparison on the Anthology Poetry question?**

Many other language qualifications will require the students to be assessed on comparison and the key priority for May/June 2021 is to ensure that students have a manageable number of texts to cover in their studies.

## **What is the new total number of marks for Paper 1?**

Paper 1 will have 60 marks and be worth 60% of the International GCSE English Literature Qualification.

## **What is the exam duration for Paper 1?**

Paper 1 will have a duration of one hour and 20 minutes.

## **Will the students' certificates look any different to those in other exam series?**

No, the certificates will look identical to those from previous series.

## **Will you be issuing a new specification or changing any other support documents to reflect these changes?**

No. These changes are temporary and apply for summer 2021 only. We will not amend the 4ET1 specification or other documents associated with the qualification.