Year 11: English exam information and advice

GCSE English Language (AQA)

This GCSE course tests students' reading and writing ability. Students are expected to apply their reading and writing skills to previously unseen texts, both fiction and non-fiction.

Both English Language GCSE exams follow the same format: 4 reading questions in Section A, followed by a writing question in Section B. However, the demands of each question are slightly different.

English Language Paper 1 (50%)

In this exam, you are asked to read an extract from a story (usually 1-1.5 pages long) and then answer four questions. Then, you are asked to write a story or description.

Question	What it asks	How to answer	Marks	Minutes (extra time in brackets)
1	List four things about the source	Use short quotes	4	4 (5)
2	Analyse the language from a boxed part of the source	TEA x 3 Technique Evidence Analysis	8	10 (12)
3	Analyse the structure of the whole source	SEE x 3 Structure point Evidence Effect	8	10 (12)
4	Mini-essay: 'to what extent do you agree'	PETAL x 3 Point Evidence Technique Analysis Link	8	20 (25)
5	Write a story or description	Plan your answer (4 planning questions) Varied sentences Varied devices Effective vocabulary Effective structure Accurate spelling Accurate punctuation Accurate grammar	40	45 (55)

English Language Paper 2 (50%)

In this exam, you are asked to read two non-fiction texts, one which is from the 19th Century and one which is from the modern period (1950-present day). You will then need to answer four reading questions. Finally, you will be asked to write a persuasive text which will be about a similar topic to the texts that you have read.

Question	What it asks	How to answer	Marks	Minutes (extra time in brackets)
1	Select the **four true** statements	Put a dot next to possible answers; shade the oval for your chosen four.	4	4 (5)
2	Write a summary of differences/similarities of **both sources**	PQI x 4 Point Quote Inference	8	10 (12)
3	Analyse the language of part of **one source**	TEA x 4 Technique Evidence Analysis	12	16 (20)
4	Compare the writers' viewpoints and perspectives in both sources	PETALPETA x 3 Point Evidence Technique Analysis Link	16	20 (25)
5	Write a persuasive text	Plan your answer (planning table, select your arguments) Varied sentences Varied devices Effective vocabulary Effective structure Accurate spelling Accurate punctuation Accurate grammar	40	45 (55)

How to revise for English Language

- Flashcards for key terms (noun, verb, adjective, adverb, simile, metaphor, flashback etc)
- Complete practice questions
- Look at example answers, annotate them and then write your own
- Write plans for Q5s and get them checked by your teacher