

*BQLC English Department*

GCSE English Language and Literature

# Exam Success in English



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# GCSE English Language and Literature



## **Key Dates:**

Spoken Language exam - w/b 5th February 2024 (Ongoing.)

English Language Paper 2 Section A and Literature Paper 2 Section B mock exam - w/b 11/3/24

## **Exam Dates:**

GCSE Literature Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (1h 45m) 13 May 2024

GCSE Literature Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry (2h 15m) 20 May 2024

GCSE Language Paper 1 - Explorations in creative reading and writing (1h 45m) 23 May 2024

GCSE Language Paper 2 - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives (1h 45m) 6 June 2024

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## GCSE English Language Paper 1

Fiction

Creative writing

80 marks available

50% GCSE English Language grade

## GCSE English Language Paper 2

Non-fiction

Transactional writing

80 marks available

50% GCSE English Language grade

## GCSE English Literature Paper 1

‘Macbeth’ and ‘A Christmas Carol’

64 marks available

40% GCSE English Literature grade

## GCSE English Literature Paper 2

‘Animal Farm’, Power and Conflict poetry  
and unseen poetry

96 marks available

60% GCSE English Literature grade.

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## **How We Are Preparing Your Child:**

Quality First Teaching

Vocabulary

Do It Nows

Extended Writing

PLCs

Homework

Assessments, Marking and Feedback

Google Classroom

Student Support Drives

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0AMFy2-jQaNIGUk9PVA>

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0AMNc8fpMwWlpUk9PVA>

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## **“You can’t revise for English!”**

- Flashcards, mind maps, posters, notes, annotated texts
- Plot, characters, themes, context, quotes
- Tassomai
- Practice questions
- Reading skill practice - comprehension, summary, analysis, comparison, evaluation
- Writing skill practice - planning, spelling, punctuation, grammar, paragraphing, linguistic and structural devices, writing with flair and creativity
- Exam technique - timings, expectations, structure

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## Top Tips for Parents:

- Make sure your children are exposed to a range of texts: reading for pleasure, and newspaper articles in particular.
- Discuss what your child is reading, and discuss topical events - build understanding of the world, and how to convey ideas.
- Ask them to explain their knowledge organisers or make flashcards - ensure they know how each exam paper is structured. Quiz them on their texts and ask them to explain to you how they will structure questions in their exam.
- Documentaries are brilliant for revision. When revising something like *Animal Farm* for Literature, watch some good documentaries on George Orwell to give them that extra boost.
- Learning together in this way is really good for keeping students interested and engaged.
- Don't be shy about asking their teachers for advice on what to cover with them at home.

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## **Top Tips for Parents - Tassomai:**

- Tassomai is a fantastic tool for revising key knowledge if used correctly.
- Encourage your child to complete little and often, not cram it all in on a Sunday night.
- Ensure they are checking their dashboards to see their weakest areas - this should be the main focus of their revision.
- Four daily goals every week ideally need to be completed over 4 days throughout that week - this helps them to balance their English revision with their other subjects too.
- Encourage them to answer as many questions as they can, while keeping their accuracy high.

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## **Top Tips for Parents - Quick Wins to Boost Grades Now:**

- Answering one practice question a week that is handed in to be marked by their teacher (Language and Literature).
- Produce revision posters of key linguistic and structural devices (Language and Literature).
- Read through the Model Answer booklets on the drive to see what an excellent answer to a question should look like (Language and Literature).
- Ensure the basics are correct - capital letters, punctuation and spelling (Language and Literature).
- Making flashcards for key quotes (Literature) and learning them.
- Creating mind maps for the context for each text (Literature).



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Useful online resources:

[Drive](#)

[Drive](#)

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff>

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrsWhelansEnglish>

<https://www.youtube.com/@MrSallesTeachesEnglish>

<https://www.litcharts.com>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zckw2hv>

[www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

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Any questions?