

English

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English

Students prepare for **two** qualifications:

- **GCSE English Language**
- **GCSE English Literature**

Exam Board **Edexcel**



GCSE English Language/Literature

- No tier of entry
- No early entry.
- Assessed entirely by terminal exams in the summer of 2025.
- No coursework
- Every student sits the same exam
- Grading system 9-1



GCSE English Literature

Examination texts are studied during year 10 and 11 working towards two written exams in the summer of 2025.



English Literature exams

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature

1 hour 45 minutes, closed text (worth 50%)

- Section A: Shakespeare: Part A on an extract, Part B linking to the whole text (Macbeth) (worth 25%).**
- Section B: Post-1914 Literature: choose one question out of two; on setting, character or theme (An Inspector Calls) (worth 25%).**



English Literature exams

Paper 2: 19th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789

2 hours 15 minutes, closed text (50%)

–Section A: 19th Century novel, Part A on an extract, Part B on the full text (A Christmas Carol) (worth 25%).

–Section B: Poetry since 1789: one named poem from a cluster in the anthology (Conflict) that will be printed – students compare it to another (unprinted) of their choice. Students also compare two thematically linked unseen contemporary poems (worth 25%).



GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Fiction and Imaginative Writing

1 hour 45 minutes (worth 40%)

–Section A: Short / long questions on unseen 19th Century fiction (1 hour) (worth 15%).

–Section B: Two images provided as stimulus for Imaginative Writing (45 minutes) (worth 25%).

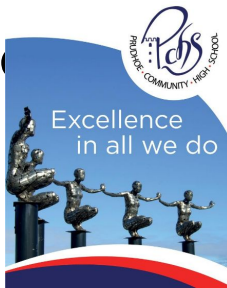


GCSE English Language

Paper 2: Non-fiction, Literary Non-fiction and Transactional Writing - 2 hours (worth 60%).

–Section A: short answers on two non-fiction texts, followed by a longer response question which is a comparison of writers' use of language (1 hour 15 minutes) (worth 35%)

–Section B: two options of writing tasks linked to themes reading materials – letters, job applications, articles etc. (45 minutes) (worth 25%).



English Language



Distinction
● ● ● ● ●

Merit
● ● ● ●

Pass
● ●

Spoken language performance will be reported as a separate result

The spoken language assessment

Students will prepare a presentation on a poem of their choice from the 'conflict' section of the poetry anthology they have studied.

This is effective revision and preparation for their Paper 2 English Literature exam question on the conflict poetry.



How can you help your child prepare?

The best preparation for English Literature is to know the set texts as well as possible.

There is no such thing as “no homework” in English. Re-reading the set texts and revising what they know about them can always be done. Researching the texts further or making use of study guides and workbooks on the set texts is all valuable revision.

If, as a parent, you have read the texts, discussing them with your child is great revision too.



Other resources

Youtube is a great resource for revision. There are a lot of presentations on the set texts for English literature - some by teachers. There are also a lot of film clips and documentaries or excerpts from documentary films on the set texts. This can be a good way for students to revise too.

There are **film** versions of Macbeth, A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls available commercially and many are on Youtube too.



Other resources

Students should also join the Year 11 English **Google Classroom** which will be filled with lots of really useful resources to help them revise and strengthen their knowledge of texts, but also to prepare them in terms of exam technique.

We will also put lessons from our schemes of work that students have already completed in case they feel they need to revisit this or fill any gaps in their knowledge, perhaps due to absence.



Three Top Tips for English

1. Specimen papers, mark schemes and other resources are available on the Edexcel website:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html>

2. Encourage your son/daughter to read and discuss non-fiction texts e.g. newspapers, leaflets, letters and magazines. The internet is also awash with older 19th Century fiction and non-fiction texts because most are out of copyright.

3. The weekly educake and revision homeworks. These are designed to keep students in touch with texts they have already studied and recap the skills that will nurture success.



Revision Guides

- English Literature – specific text guides are commercially available to buy.
- English Language revision guides and workbooks are also available to buy commercially - we will sell Edexcel's own version of these for half price (£3.50 each) in the English Department from early October.