

Tips for Revising

GCSE English Language



SPECIFICATION

AQA GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Access the specification here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/specification/specification-at-a-glance>



OVERVIEW OF PAPER 1

What's Assessed?

Section A: Reading one literature fiction text and responding to 4 questions on that text.

Section B: Writing (descriptive or narrative in response to a prompt).

Exam length: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Worth 50% of the overall qualification

OVERVIEW OF PAPER 2

What's Assessed?

Section A: Reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing (to present a viewpoint).

Exam length: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Worth 50% of the overall qualification

USEFUL WEBSITES



Access lesson videos on writing and responding to fiction and non-fiction here:

<https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/english-secondary-ks4-aqa/units>

Access past papers here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-8700/assessment-resources>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

REVISION VIDEOS

There are lots of videos out there that 'claim' to help you to revise for English Language. Unfortunately, not all of them are genuine or helpful. We recommend that you use Mr Bruff's guidance, which can be accessed here:

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



REVISION

REVISION METHODS

- Make sure you are confident in your application of key subject terminology such as nouns, adjectives, metaphors and similes.
- Make sure you understand what is meant by the structure of a text for paper 1, as this is a question with which many students struggle. Ask your teacher for help if you're not sure. You could even visit one of the websites listed above.
- Use past papers to practise responding under timed conditions.
- Remember the writing questions are worth 50% of each paper. For paper 1, practise writing creatively and descriptively using a range of prompts such as interesting photographs. For paper 2, you may be asked to write a broadsheet article, an essay, a formal letter, a leaflet or a speech. You should be familiar with each of these formats and practise writing in response to different topics, presenting different viewpoints.