

Curriculum Overview 2025 - 2026

English Literature

Exam Board AQA	Exam Specification 8702	 Link to full details	Qualification Type GCSE
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Departmental Staff	• Mrs Burniston • Mrs Crofts • Miss Cutler • Miss Dixon	• Ms Eastwick • Miss Hein • Mrs Hill • Miss Lago	• Mrs Parsons • Mrs Rawding • Mrs Wilson
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Examined by:  x 2	Paper 1	Paper 2
	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Modern texts & poetry
	 2 hours 15 minutes	 1 hour 45 minutes
	 60%	 40%

Useful revision website/ resource links

Assessment and teaching resources can be found as part of the AQA specification

- [Teaching resources](#)
- [Assessment resources](#)

[BBC Bitesize](#)

Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel
Content Overview	Section A, students will study one Shakespearean play form a choice of: • Macbeth • Romeo and Juliet • The Tempest • The Merchant of Venice • Much Ado About Nothing • Julius Caesar + Section B, students will study one 19th century novel from a choice of: • <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson • <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens • <i>Great Expectations (1867)</i> by Charles Dickens • <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Brontë • <i>Frankenstein (1831)</i> by Mary Shelley • <i>Pride & Prejudice</i> by Jane Austen • <i>The Sign of Four</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle
Assessment Overview	Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

**Content
Overview**

Students will study **one** from a choice of drama and prose set-texts which include post-1914 fiction and drama and then **one cluster** of poems taken from AQA poetry anthology, *Poems Past & Present*.

Study one from:

- An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley
- Blood Brothers (musical version) by Willy Russell
- DNA by Dennis Kelly
- A Taste of Honey by Shelagh Delaney
- Princess & The Hustler (1831) by Chinonyerem Odimba
- Leave Taking by Winsome Pinnock
- Lord of the Flies by William Golding
- Telling Tales in AQA Anthology
- Animal Farm by George Orwell
- Anita and Me by Meera Syal
- Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
- My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal

Students will study one cluster of poems taken from the **AQA poetry anthology**, *Poems Past and Present*. There is a choice of three clusters, each containing 15 poems. The poems in each cluster are thematically linked and were written between 1789 and the present day.

The titles of the three clusters are:

- Love and Relationships
- Power and Conflict
- Worlds and Lives

Students should study all 15 poems in their chosen cluster and be prepared to write about any of them in the examination.

**Assessment
Overview**

In preparing for the **unseen poetry section** of the examination students should experience a wide range of poetry in order to develop their ability to closely analyse unseen poems. They should be able to analyse and compare key features such as their content, theme, structure and use of language.

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.