

# GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Examination Board: AQA (8700 – English Language; 8702 – English Literature)

[www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700) / [www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702](http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702)



## What will I learn on this course?

GCSE English Language allows students to explore the richness and diversity of the English language, to develop their ability to use the highest standards of literacy and oracy, and to investigate and analyse how language is used in fiction and non-fiction writing, as well as to experiment by using language effectively in their own creative and transactional writing.

GCSE English Literature allows students to explore how writers communicate their ideas about the world and how readers/audiences might respond to these ideas. It provides students with the opportunity to develop their close reading skills and ability to interpret texts within the contexts of their composition and publication/performance.

## How is the course structured and assessed?

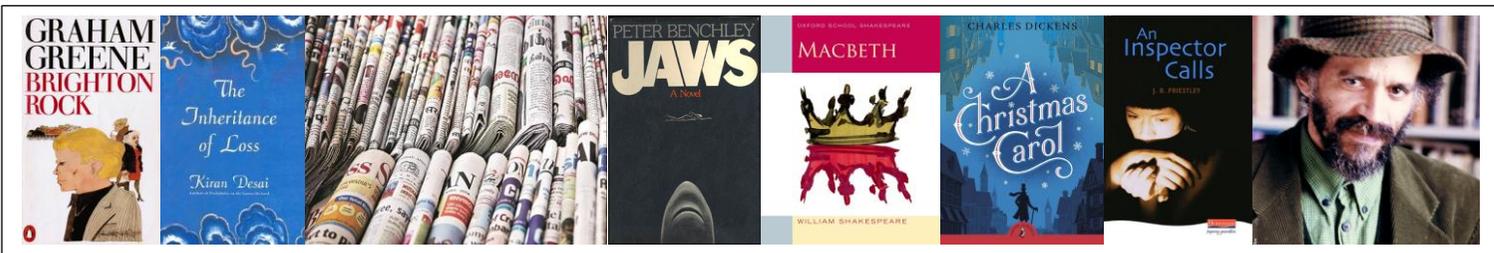
Assessment for GCSE English Language takes the form of two external examinations plus a separate endorsement in spoken language for which students must deliver a presentation and answer questions on a topic of their choice. Examination tasks cover fiction and non-fiction.

Assessment for GCSE English Literature also takes the form of two external examinations, comprising sections on William Shakespeare (*Macbeth*), the 19<sup>th</sup>-century novel (Charles Dickens, *A Christmas Carol*), modern drama (J.B. Priestley, *An Inspector Calls*), poetry (the 'Power and Conflict' cluster in the AQA anthology), and unseen poetry.

## How will I study?

Lessons are taught by subject specialists who also provide directions for independent learning beyond the classroom, thereby consolidating and extending students' skills and knowledge.

Students are assisted in developing their analytical and discursive abilities to the standard required at GCSE. They are encouraged to become more confident in articulating their ideas and interpretations, to read widely and ambitiously, and to think critically and imaginatively when engaging with issues and debates relating to literature.



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