

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

GCSE English Language comprises:

- Four Written Controlled Assessments **40%**
- One Examination on Non Fiction Texts **60%**

Additionally, you will be awarded a grade in Speaking and Listening based on your marks in the three Speaking and Listening tasks. Below is a guide to the course at a glance. For a full course specification please refer to the VLE:

GCSE English Language

Unit 1: Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

External examination 60% of the total GCSE marks	2 hours 15 minutes	80 marks
Section A: Reading 30% of the total GCSE marks		40 marks
Section B: Writing 30% of the total GCSE marks		40 marks

PLUS

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening

Controlled Assessment Endorsement 0% weighting	45 marks
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PLUS

Unit 3: Understanding spoken and written texts and writing creatively

Controlled Assessment 40% of the total GCSE marks		80 marks
Part a: Extended reading 15% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	30 marks
Part b: Creative writing 15% of the total GCSE marks	3–4 hours	30 marks
Part c: Spoken Language Study 10% of the total GCSE mark	2–3 hours	20 marks

Note that times indicates the production of final written outcomes.

EXAM

The Exam has two parts:

- The first part tests your ability to **read**, analyse, interpret and discuss non-fiction texts. It consists of 4 questions worth a total of 40 (out of 80) marks.
- The second part tests your ability to **write** in different styles for a range of purposes. It consists of 2 questions worth a total of 40 (out of 80) marks.

Controlled Assessment

There are three elements to Controlled Assessment:

1. Task Setting: Who sets the task
2. Task Taking: How the students perform the tasks
3. Task Marking: Who does the marking.

Each stage has a level of control (high, medium or low) to ensure reliability and authenticity and to make assessments more manageable for teachers and students.

AQA's Controlled Assessment tasks have been designed to offer you maximum flexibility allowing you to:

- choose texts for reading units
- contextualise tasks to meet the needs of your students
- timetable the assessment to meet your needs
- offer assessment in June and November.

The Controlled Assessments are done in school. You will prepare for them in class time before undertaking them in strict exam conditions. They are marked by your teachers and then moderated (checked) by the exam board.

Creative Writing x 2 tasks = 30 marks maximum
Of Mice and Men essay = 30 marks maximum
Spoken Language essay = 20 marks maximum

Total Controlled Assessment (40% of Language GCSE) = 80 marks maximum

Extended Reading

For your English Language GCSE, you will be expected to complete a Controlled Assessment on 'Of Mice and Men'. The question will ask you to focus on how Steinbeck presents a certain theme or character within the book and how this reflects John Steinbeck's ideas about the world.

The Controlled Assessment is worth 30 marks out of a total of 80 for your entire ENGLISH LANGUAGE coursework portfolio. It is expected to be approximately 1200 words long and you'll have up to 4 hours to write it in exam conditions.

Assessment Objectives

These are the three things your work will be marked against in this unit:

1. **AO1:** Read and understood texts, selecting appropriate quotes in their analysis.
2. **AO2:** Explained and evaluated how writers use linguistic, grammatical, structural and presentational features to achieve effects and engage and influence the reader.
3. **AO3:** Produced developed and sustained interpretations of writers' ideas and perspectives

Speaking and Listening

This will be recorded as a separate grade on your certificate but will not affect your GCSE Language Grade. However, many employers place great value on speaking and listening skills and so a good grade here will be very useful.

These Controlled Assessments are currently split into three different units. They are:

1. **Presentation:** You must present something you are interested in to the rest of the class and your teacher. You are awarded marks based on how you perform, the content and context of your speech.
2. **Role Play:** You assume a character from a text you have studied and are awarded marks based on how well developed the character is.
3. **Group discussion:** You will be put into a group with your peers and asked to discuss and come to an agreement about an issue or problem. Here you are awarded marks based on your contribution to the group and discussion.