

Subject: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Exam board AQA 8700
and overall exam code:

Exam contents:

Paper/module no.	Length	Content	Exam date	Percentage of overall GCSE
PAPER 1	1HR 45MINS	READING SECTION WRITING SECTION	TUES 5 JUNE 9.00AM	50%
PAPER 2	1HR 45MINS	READING SECTION WRITING SECTION	FRI 8 JUNE 9.00AM	50%

Exam advice

There are three reading sources on which the “reading” questions are based. All three reading sources are used in the exams and all three are ‘unseen’.

How to approach the Reading questions:

1. Be familiar with the allocation of marks and aware that some questions carry more marks than others.
2. In addition to the 15mins reading time:
 - Paper 1: Qu1 – 5 mins, Ques 2 & 3 – 10 mins each, Qu 4 – 20 mins
 - Paper 2: Qu1 – 5 mins, Qu 2 – 8 mins, Qu 3 – 12 marks, Qu 4 – 20 mins
3. Focus on what each question is asking so as not to duplicate your material eg do not analyse language when responding to a question on structure.
4. Support all of your ideas with appropriate quotations from, or close reference to, the text.

There are two compulsory writing questions.

How to approach the Writing questions:

1. Allocate 45 mins for each writing question
2. Read the questions carefully noting the purpose and target audience.
3. Remember that Question 5 earns a possible 40 marks of which 16 marks are for SPaG.
4. Remember that there are three ways to get marks; content, organisation, accuracy.

Revision hints

1. Be aware of the assessment objectives and the way the mark schemes work – 4 levels for English language.
2. Find a technique of reading the sources and answering the questions which allows you to work within the time limits allocated to you.
3. Practise with ‘unseen’ passages of similar length and level as the source texts you will meet in the exam (via Intelligent Reading Scheme on T drive).
4. Practise timed written responses to questions on reading and writing tasks as allocated by your class teacher.

5. Revise good practice when quoting from texts, e.g. not using ellipses.
6. Ensure you understand what it means to summarise, analyse, compare (Reading.)
7. Ensure you are familiar with the concepts of purpose and audience.
8. Revise requirements for the two writing tasks:
 - Paper 1- descriptive or narrative writing.
 - Paper 2- writing to present a viewpoint.
9. Revise content, organisation, accuracy and developing vocabulary in writing by reviewing advice given on practice exam pieces.
10. Key text for revision purposes is:
 - GCSE English Language (Complete Revision and Practice) CGP

Revision Topics

Area of Study 1: Reading Analysis

Key Ideas	Specification Content	☺	☹	☹
Language Analysis	Revise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Techniques of comparison • Examples of language include eg: similes/metaphors/imagery/emotive language/imperatives/exaggeration/colloquial language/humour/verbs/adjectives/nouns/pronouns 			
Structure Analysis	Revise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fiction – linear or non-linear, chronological ordering/flashbacks, changes in perspective or time-shifts. • How does the writer direct the reader’s attention eg general description narrowing to specific focus. 			

Area of Study 2: Writing

Key Ideas	Specification Content	☺	☹	☹
Writing: Descriptive & Creative	Revise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical ordering of ideas – planning • Narrative viewpoint • Purpose and Audience • Use of adjectives, adverbs, sophisticated vocabulary. • Figurative language eg similes, metaphors • Powerful endings 			

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard English 			
Writing: To present a viewpoint	<p>Revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logical ordering of ideas – planning • Purpose and Audience • Tone/Style/Formal/Informal register • How to inform/entertain <p>Persuasive techniques eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listing • Use of rhetorical questions • Emotive language • Examples and anecdotes • Facts/statistics • Expert opinion • Flattery <p>And additional techniques you have addressed in class.</p>			
Forms of Writing	<p>Revise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal letter layout • Magazine article layout • Email/blog layout • Speech writing layout • Report/Essay writing layout • Review layout 			
Structure and technical accuracy	<p>Revise: *</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paragraphing • Sentence forms (simple/compound/complex) • Commas, colons, semi-colons • Speech marks, apostrophes • Brackets, ellipses 			