



How To Revise and Key Information for English Language and Literature

Literature Exams

Exam Dates and Content

GCSE English Literature Paper 1 (8702/1)

- **17th May 2023**

Romeo and Juliet/A Christmas Carol/Jekyll and Hyde

Duration: 1h 45m CLOSED BOOK

GCSE English Literature Paper 2 (8702/2)

- **25st May 2023**

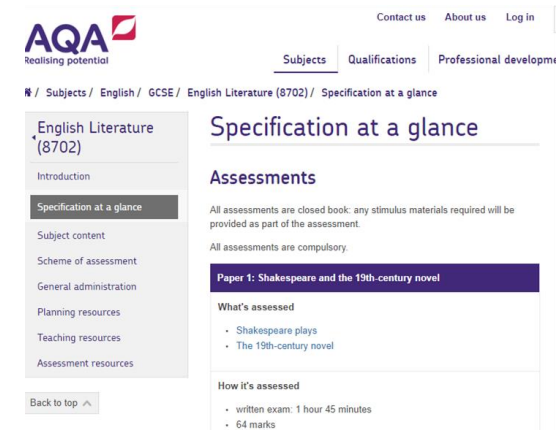
An Inspector Calls/Poetry Anthology/Unseen Poetry

Duration: 2h 15m CLOSED BOOK

Look on the AQA Website for past papers and resources/information

- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

Teachers use this so some content may be familiar but it is a good place to see the format of the exam.



The screenshot shows the AQA website interface. At the top right, there are links for 'Contact us', 'About us', and 'Log in'. Below these are navigation tabs for 'Subjects', 'Qualifications', and 'Professional development'. The main breadcrumb trail reads: 'Subjects / English / GCSE / English Literature (8702) / Specification at a glance'. On the left, a sidebar menu lists various sections: 'English Literature (8702)', 'Introduction', 'Specification at a glance' (which is highlighted), 'Subject content', 'Scheme of assessment', 'General administration', 'Planning resources', 'Teaching resources', and 'Assessment resources'. At the bottom of the sidebar is a 'Back to top' button. The main content area is titled 'Specification at a glance' and includes a section for 'Assessments' with the text: 'All assessments are closed book; any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment. All assessments are compulsory.' Below this is a dark blue header for 'Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel'. Underneath, 'What's assessed' lists 'Shakespeare plays' and 'The 19th-century novel'. Finally, 'How it's assessed' lists 'written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes' and '64 marks'.

Key Information for Literature Revision

(This is a mostly knowledge-based exam)

Texts

- Know the **key themes** and **characters** as questions will invariably be based on these two ideas.
- Know **where** in the books this information can be found and **linked up**. Questions **use extracts** and then ask you to **link up** to other areas of the text.
- If possible, buy your own copies of the text so you can write in them. They can be second-hand/used from Amazon.
- You need to have read the texts **at least three times** to understand the information and then be able to analyse it. **You will need to do the second/third readings at home and in your own time.**
- Listening to audiobooks can help-you can use your library card to hire audiobooks or use the Audible app. Please make sure you listen to **unabridged** versions.

Key Skills for Literature Revision

Poetry Anthology

- Know all of the anthology poems but know which you can link together easily, and those links that make sense for you. The question will always be on the theme of **Power or Conflict**.
- Revise picking out **language features** from the poems and discussing what they tell you about what is happening in the poem. **How does it link to the question**, what are we supposed to **think, feel or imagine?**

Unseen Poetry

- Look for poems you haven't seen before (look in libraries, online or ask your teacher).
- Revise picking out **language features** from the poems and considering what they tell you about what is happening in the poem. **How does it link to the question**, what are we supposed to **think, feel or imagine?**
- Find other poems which have the same theme and try and look **for links**.



Ideas

Look at the following ideas, but remember how you decide to memorise quotations will depend on what type of learner you are

- Write them down...again and again. Use post-it notes or flashcards. Put post-it notes in places around your house you know you'll spend time.
- Use images to help you memorise – add these to flashcards to help test yourself.
- Song lyrics and music – can you fit quotations to music? Can you think about songs that would link to characters or themes in your texts?
- Record them on your phone and listen them again on the bus or on a walk or when you're cooking...
- Social media can help...

How many quotations should I learn?

- This is hard to answer. The answer is obviously as many as you can.
- They don't have to be exactly the same, they can be paraphrased or similar. You have to make good **'reference to the text'**.
- Please remember you don't have to learn long quotations, **two word quotations** are sufficient to support your ideas in the exam.
- Also referring **to the wider text** will count in the exam so make sure you explain **where** particular moments happen – **refer to chapter titles/numbers** or say what **has just happened** or is **about to happen** so you show you know the **text as a whole**.

Most important is to analyse what they mean, and how they link to the question being asked, and what they are supposed to make the reader think, feel or imagine.



How To Revise and Key Information for English Language and Literature

Language Exams

English Language Exam Dates

- GCSE English Language Paper 1 (8700/1)

5th June 2023

Creative Reading/Writing

Duration: 1h 45m

- GCSE English Language Paper 2 (8700/2)

12th June 2023

Writers' Viewpoints/Writing for Different Audiences

Duration: 1h 45m

Key Skills for Language Revision

Section A Papers 1 and 2 - Reading Comprehension

- Reading a range of texts and being able to pick out information; comment on the effect of language techniques; the effect of structure; the way writers show us information and comparing and contrasting texts on a similar topic.

Section B Paper 1 Writing for Different Purposes, Audiences and Formats

- Writing narratives using a sentence starter OR writing descriptions (with photos as inspiration)

Section B Paper 2 Writing for different Purposes, Audiences and Formats

- Writing speeches/reviews/articles/reports/letters/essays.

Both also test the use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Key Revision Tips

- This is primarily a **skills based exam** but **knowledge of a wide range of text types** (newspaper articles, autobiographies, diaries, opinion pieces, novels, essays) is a real advantage.
- The best revision is to complete past papers found on AQA, at school or in revision books.
- We also have the CPG guides available through the school at a discounted price, if you need to order/reorder these. Letters have just been reissued and are also available tonight.

Finally

- P6 sessions are in place and will be offered to more students from after half term.
- There will be key sessions before the exams themselves during school hours.
- However, not all of the skills/content can be learned and retained at school and the new GCSEs are not designed that way. They have an emphasis on independent learning and knowledge retention which **MUST** be student-led.