

Tips for Success at GCSE English Language

What does the exam look like?

What do students need to do to succeed?

How can I support my child in the next few weeks?

English Language

Exam 60% - Mock

Reading 30%

Writing 30%

Controlled
Assessment 40%

Of Mice and Men
15%

Spoken Language 10%

Two pieces of original
writing 15%

There are still
opportunities for
students to resit
Controlled
Assessment tasks.
Revision sessions
Wednesday and
Thursday 3.30-4.30

Easter Revision
Friday April 1st 10 -1

Exam date: 7th June

What does the exam look like?

My English Language Progress

Total UMS

#

- A* = 270
- A = 240
- B = 210
- C = 180
- D = 150

You have an estimated

214

H

UMS marks in total

Unit One (60%)								
UMS	A*=162	A=144	B=126	C=108	You (raw)	Max (raw)	Max UMS	
Q1 Retrieve understand interpret					4	8	18	
Q2 Presentational Devices and Headlines					6	8	18	
Q3 Explain Language					6	8	18	
Q4 Language Comparrison					10	16	36	
Q5 Content and organisation - Short Writing					7	12	27	
Q5 Accuracy - Short Writing Task					4	4	9	
Q6 Content and organisation - Long Writing					10	16	36	
Q6 Accuracy - Long Writing Task					5	8	18	
Unit Total					52	80	180	
Unit Three (40%)								
UMS	A*=108	A=96	B=82	C=72	D=60	You (raw)	Max (raw)	Max UMS
Producing Creative Texts - 21st Century - Content RAW (10)						6	10	15
Producing Creative Texts - TV Adverts - Content RAW (10)						6	10	15
Producing Creative Texts - Accuracy RAW (10)						6	10	15
Extended Reading RAW (30 marks)						18	20	30
Spoken Language RAW (20 marks)						15	30	45
Unit Total						51	80	120
Overall total						103	160	300

You are currently on course to gain a B grade

How is my child doing at the moment?

Section A: Reading

- Read 3 non-fiction texts (sources 1, 2, and 3)
- Answer 4 Questions.
- Spend up to 1 hour and 10 minutes reading the texts and answering the questions.

Exam Tip:

- Timing!
- Remember the formulas for how you answer each question

What does the exam look like?

Q1: Retrieval & Inference (8)

- ✓ Make inferences about the focus of the question – look for questions split by ‘**and**’ : answer **both** elements
- ✓ Use own words to explain ideas / opinions about a topic
- ✓ Include subtle, perceptive ideas as well as main ideas
- ✓ Write approx 4 PEEs = use short, embedded quotations (5 words max)
- ✓ Choose points from start, middle & end of text
- ✓ Use power words: *suggests, implies, demonstrates, shows, indicates, highlights....*
- ✓ **Avoid** making writing personal EG ‘*I think the writer shows*’.....
Instead say, ‘*The writer shows that....*’. **OR** giving your opinion on the text or topic **OR** writing about language
- ✓ 15 minutes

The students will be expected to read a variety of texts – newspaper articles, travel literature, autobiographies.

Reading widely with your child and discussing what you have read will be valuable – even just using a local newspaper.

Past papers are available on the AQA website and from the English department

There are tutorials available on Youtube dealing with the different kinds of questions and how to approach them.

What can I do to support my child?

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Section B: Writing

- Respond to 2 Questions.
 1. Short writing task (16 marks)
 2. Long writing task (24 marks)
- Spend up to 1 hour and 5 minutes planning, writing and checking your responses.
 - 25 minutes on the short task.
 - 35 minutes on the long task.

Exam Tip:

- Complete the long writing task first! If you run out of time, you will have gained more marks on this task than the short writing task.

What does the exam look like?

Section B: Writing

5. Write a brief article for a website of your choice telling your readers about an interesting or unusual journey or travel experience you have had. Explain why it was memorable.
(16 marks)

- This main purpose of this task is to **explain**. However, to make this writing lively and interesting to read, you will also need to **describe** the journey (the people involved and place(s) you visited) and possibly **entertain** your reader.

Practice these skills by answering the writing question above.

- Aim to write about 3 paragraphs.
- Spend no longer than 25 minutes.
- Plan before you write.

What does the exam look like?

Section B: Writing

Section B: Writing

2. Primary purpose of Writing to **Argue (but could be persuade)**

6. Your school or College is inviting entries for a writing competition. The topic is "Dangerous sports, activities and pastimes are selfish, often put others at risk and should be discouraged."

Write your entry arguing **for or against** this view.

(24 marks)

Practice these skills by answering the writing question above.

- Aim to write about 4-5 paragraphs.
- Spend no longer than 35 minutes.
- Plan before you write.

What does the exam look like?

The best way to learn how to write is to read as widely as possible. So looking at a variety of texts – newspaper articles, travel literature, autobiographies – will help.

Reading widely with your child will be invaluable. Weekend newspapers often contain example of the range of texts students need to produce.

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