

Guidance for preparing for your GCSE English Language Exams

Paper 1 - Communicating information and ideas (01)

OCR GCSE English Language Paper 1 Tuesday 4th June 9am 2019 (provisional)

Assessment: 80 marks 2 hr written paper 50% of total GCSE

Section A: Reading information and ideas 1 hour 15 minutes (40 marks)

You will be given two unseen authentic non-fiction texts which you will need to read and respond to.

One text is from the 19th century; the other is from either the 20th or the 21st century. These may include for example, essays, journalism (both printed and online), travel writing, speeches and biographical writing.

You will need to answer all **four** questions. They will get progressively harder.

In **Question 1** (a, b & c) you will need to show your understanding of the first text. In **Question 2** you need to make connections between the ideas presented in the two texts without analysing language. In **Question 3** you will need to analyse the language used by the writer in the first text. In **Question 4** you will need to use the language points you made from the first text to compare them with the language used by the writer in the second text.

Section B: Writing for audience, impact and purpose 45 minutes (40 marks)

You will answer **only one** of **two** possible extended writing tasks in Section B.

The writing tasks will have a clear audience and purpose and be written in a non-fiction form. There will be links between the theme or idea in the reading texts and the writing task.

You will be asked to produce a piece of original non-fiction for one of the following purposes:

- Describe
- Explain
- Inform
- Instruct
- Argue
- Persuade

This could be in a range of non-fiction forms, for example articles, speeches and letters.

Paper 2 - Exploring Effects and Impact (02)

OCR GCSE English Language Paper 2 Friday 7th June 9am 2019 (provisional)

Assessment: 80 marks 2 hr written paper 50% of total GCSE

Section A: Reading meaning and effects 1 hour 15 minutes (40 marks)

You will be given two unseen prose fiction texts which you will need to read and respond to.

One text is from the 20th century; the other is from the 21st century. This may include extracts from novels, short stories or literary non-fiction.

You will need to answer all **four** questions. They will get progressively harder.

Section B: Writing imaginatively and creatively 45 minutes (40 marks)

You will answer **only one** of **two** possible extended writing tasks in Section B.

The writing tasks will ask you to produce imaginative, original texts in a range of forms, including, for example, short stories and autobiographical writing.

You will need to use narrative techniques to achieve deliberate effects in their own writing. In your writing you

<p>In Question 1 you will need to show your understanding of the first text. In Question 2 you need to comments on the writer’s use of language and structure in the first text and the impact that it has upon the audience. In Question 3 you will need to analyse the language used by the writer in the second text. In Question 4 you will need compare the ideas presented by the two writers supporting with quotations. You will need to respond to a statement explaining to what extent you agree or disagree with it.</p>	<p>should explore how vocabulary and grammatical features can be used to achieve particular effects.</p> <p>Your writing will need to be adapted for different purposes and contexts. You should apply their knowledge and understanding of linguistic and literary conventions to create impact in their own writing.</p>
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<p>What can I do to revise for this section?</p>	<p>What can I do to revise for this section?</p>
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<p>Guidance on analysing and approaching texts: BBC Bitesize website: Analysing non-fiction texts http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z8n487h</p> <p>BBC Bitesize: How to compare texts http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/guides/zpgc4wx/revision/1</p> <p>Non-fiction texts to extend reading & practice skills: Examples of literary non-fiction to read http://brevitymag.com/category/current-issue/</p> <p>Non-fiction texts to practice reading and analysis skills http://teacher.depaul.edu/Reading_NONFICTION_Grades8-10.html</p>	<p>Revising writing skills: BBC Bitesize website http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/writing/</p> <p>S-Cool revision website http://www.s-cool.co.uk/gcse/english/writing-argue-persuade-instruct</p> <p>Spelling, punctuation and grammar revision: Scribble Live - info-graphics for students http://www.scribblelive.com/blog/2013/04/29/grammar-spelling-infographics/</p> <p>BBC Skillswise http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english</p>
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What should I revise for these exams?

- Comprehension of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts
- Language terminology (e.g. noun, verb, adjective, pronoun, simile, metaphor, personification, alliteration, sibilance, anaphora, rhetorical question, triplet)
- Structural terminology (e.g. narrative perspective, first person, second person, third person, simple sentence, repetition, contrast, shift in tone)
- Annotation of language and structure in unseen texts considering specific effects on the reader
- Approaches to each question in the exam
- The feedback and targets you were given in previous assessments

How should I do this?

- Reading a wider range of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts and explaining what they are about
- Annotating unseen texts for their effective use of language and structure using terminology where appropriate
- Planning responses to Question 4, 5/6 effectively
- Writing in timed conditions
- Learning and memorising key language and structural terminology
- Self-assess responses using mark schemes
- Look at model answers