

## Guidance for preparing for your GCSE English Literature Exams

### Paper 1 - Exploring modern and literary heritage texts (01)

*OCR GCSE English Literature Paper 1 Wednesday 15th May 2019 1.30pm (provisional)*

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

#### **Section A: Modern prose or drama 1 hour 15 minutes (40 marks)**

You will need to answer a question on the modern prose or drama text that you have been studying in class: *DNA*, *Never Let Me Go*, *Animal Farm*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Mother* *Never Said I should* or *Anita and Me*.

You will need to answer **both** parts **a** and **b** of the question on your modern prose or drama text. You should spend 45 minutes on **part a** and 30 minutes on **part b**. In **part a** you will be asked to compare an extract from the modern prose text that you have studied with an unseen extract in the same genre, both will be printed in the exam paper. In **part b** you will need to respond to a question with related ideas and themes by discussing another moment in the text.

In both responses you will need to give a personal response to the texts and question. Your interpretations should be supported with quotations and you need to explore the writer's use of language, structure and form.

#### **Section B: 19th century prose 45 minutes (40 marks)**

You will answer **only one** of **two possible** extended-response style question on the 19th century text you have studied in class: either *The War of the Worlds*, *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Great Expectations*, *Pride and Prejudice* or *Jane Eyre*.

The **first question** will be an extract-based question. You will be given an extract of the text printed in the exam paper and will need to answer a question based upon characters, themes or relationships making links to the whole text. The **second question** will be a discursive question asking you to explore a theme, relationship or character(s) presented referring to more than one moment. For either question you will need to give a personal response informed by quotations selected from the text. You will need to analyse the writer's use of language, structure and form and apply relevant contextual information to the text. You will also be assessed for your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

### Paper 2 - Exploring poetry or Shakespeare (02)

*OCR GCSE English Literature Paper 2 Thursday 23rd May 2019 9am (provisional)*

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

#### **Section A: Poetry across time 1 hour 15 minutes (40 marks)**

You will need to answer a question on the poetry cluster that you have been studying in class: *Conflict*, *Love and Relationships* or *Youth and Age*.

You will need to answer **both** parts **a** and **b** of the question on your poetry cluster. You should spend 45 minutes on **part a** and 30 minutes on **part b**. In **part a** you will be

#### **Section B: Shakespeare 45 minutes (40 marks)**

You will answer **only one** of **two possible** extended-response style question on the play you have studied in class: either *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet* or *The Merchant of Venice*.

The **first question** will be an extract-based question. You will be given an extract of the play printed in the exam

asked to compare a poem that you have studied in your poetry cluster with an unseen poem, both will be printed in the exam paper. In **part b** you will need to respond to a question with related ideas and themes by discussing another poem of your choice from the cluster studied.

In both responses you will need to give a personal response to the poems and question. Your interpretations should be supported with quotations and you need to explore the writer's use of language, structure and form.

paper and will need to answer a question based upon characters or themes making links to the whole text. The **second question** will be a discursive question asking you to explore a theme, idea or character(s) presenting in the play referring to more than one moment. For either question you will need to give a personal response informed by quotations selected from the play. You will need to analyse Shakespeare's use of language, structure and form and apply relevant contextual information to the text. You will also be assessed for your spelling, punctuation and grammar.

### What can I do to revise for this section?

#### Revision sites for the modern prose or drama:

BBC Bitesize website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zr38q6f>

Revision world website:

<https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/english-literature-gcse-level>

#### Guidance on analysing and comparing poems:

BBC Bitesize website: Poetry

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z4nc87h>

A glossary of terminology

<http://www.thehazeleyacademy.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/English-Literature-Glossary-of-Terms.pdf>

#### Unseen poems

Examples of unseen poems to practice approaches:

<http://www.poetrysoup.com/poems/unseen>

### What can I do to revise for this section?

#### Revision sites for 19th century texts

BBC Bitesize website:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zgvmkxjs>

Sparknotes website:

[http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/index\\_author\\_a.html](http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/index_author_a.html)

#### Revising the play studied:

BBC Bitesize website: Literature

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english\\_literature/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/)

Sparknotes: Shakespeare Study Guides

<http://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/>

#### Spelling, punctuation and grammar revision:

BBC Skillswise

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise/english>

## What should I revise for these exams?

- Modern Prose: plot, themes, characters, relationship - memorise quotations
- 19th Century: plot, themes, characters, relationships - memorise quotations
- Poetry: themes, relationships, voice - memorise quotations
- Shakespeare: plot, themes, characters, relationships - memorise quotations
- Approaches to each question in the exam
- The feedback and targets you were given in previous assessments

## How should I do this?

- Add to annotations for each poem in the taught cluster of the anthology
- Revise themes, character and relationships for taught texts using online revision sites
- Practice annotating unseen poems
- Re-read set texts
- Planning responses to practice questions
- Writing in timed conditions
- Learning and memorising key language and structural terminology
- Revise key moments and extracts from set texts
- Look at model answers