

AQA English Language (8700):

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

Specification at a glance:

Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)



Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

What's assessed

(AO7–AO9)

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

Assessed

- teacher set throughout course
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)



Assessments

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- Shakespeare plays
- The 19th-century novel

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- Modern prose or drama texts
- The poetry anthology
- Unseen poetry

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

AQA English Literature (8702) Timing Grid

Paper 1				
Question	AOs	Marks available	Weighting (within qualifications as a whole)	Suggested Timing
Section A - Shakespeare	AO1, AO2, AO3	34	21.25	50-55 minutes (including 10 minutes reading/planning time.)
Section B – 19th century novel	AO1, AO2, AO3	30	18.75	50-55 minutes (including 10 minutes reading/planning time.)

Paper 2				
Question	AOs	Marks available	Weighting (within qualifications as a whole)	Suggested Timing
Section A – Modern text	AO1, AO2, AO3	34	21.25	45 minutes
Section B – Studied poetry	AO1, AO2, AO3	30	18.75	45 minutes
Section Ci – Response to unseen poem	AO1, AO2	24	15.0	30 minutes (eg 5 minutes reading/planning + 25 minutes writing up)
Section Cii – Comparative response to unseen poems	AO2	8	5.0	15 minutes (eg 5 minutes reading/planning + 10 minutes writing up)

English Literature Set Texts:

- Shakespeare: *Romeo and Juliet*
- 19th Century Novel: *The Strange Case of Jekyll and Hyde* by R.L Stevenson
- Modern Text: *An Inspector Calls* by J.B Priestley
- Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict cluster
- Unseen Poetry

We provide students with clean copies of all of the texts, however, if they have their own copies the students can annotate them, take them home and read and study them independently. (Any version and second-hand are fine as they will be well used.)

We also sell CGP Guides in school at a cost of £2.75 and actively encourages students to use them in class as they are very accessible for all abilities.

- https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/School/books_gcse_english.books_gcse_english_settexts

However, if you feel your child would benefit from a challenge, York Notes provides more in-depth analysis. The student workbooks that accompany the study guides are also excellent for consolidation and revision.

- <https://www.yorknotes.com/revision-notes/gcse>
- <https://flipsocards.com/>

English Language:

Across both papers students will respond to texts from the **19th, 20th and 21st Century**

Paper 1

- Students respond to a passage from an unseen novel and answer questions
- We recommend that students read independently at least 3 times a week to help build up their reading **stamina** and **resilience** to the texts they will be exposed to in class

Paper 2

- Students respond to two non-fiction texts (letters, news articles etc) and compare writer's ideas and attitudes
- We recommend that students keep up to date with current affairs

It really helps if you discuss with your child what they are studying in school and encourage them to read outside of school as this encourages active engagement in their ideas of the texts.

Learning Outside of the Classroom:

- Students will complete spellings once a week. The spellings are all words that we want the students to use in their own writing so please encourage them to revise and practice using the words in their work.
- Students will be given homework projects to complete over a half term. They will have a choice of tasks and we would like them to be as creative as possible when completing their research. All of the projects are designed to help them learn about and consolidate learning in the classroom but also foster a passion for what they are studying.
- All work will be uploaded to Google Classroom so students can complete work if they have been off sick – ask your child to show you the classroom so you can engage in discussions about their homework.



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Education Trips and Workshops

From time to time we may ask you for a small donation for a workshop or trip to the theatre. We are planning on holding masterclasses once a term and getting outside agencies into school.

The first workshop will be next half term and we are hoping to get Beatrice Garland to talk about her poem *Kamikaze* which is part of the power and conflict cluster.

Useful sites for you and your child:

AQA parent's support page: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/student-support/for-parents>

Mr Bruff- everything you need for revision on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

Find articles for language and critical reviews on literature texts: <https://www.bl.uk/> (these will appear on Google Classroom too!)

BBC Bitesize is a good revision tool for Literature and Language:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/

Help with Shakespeare:

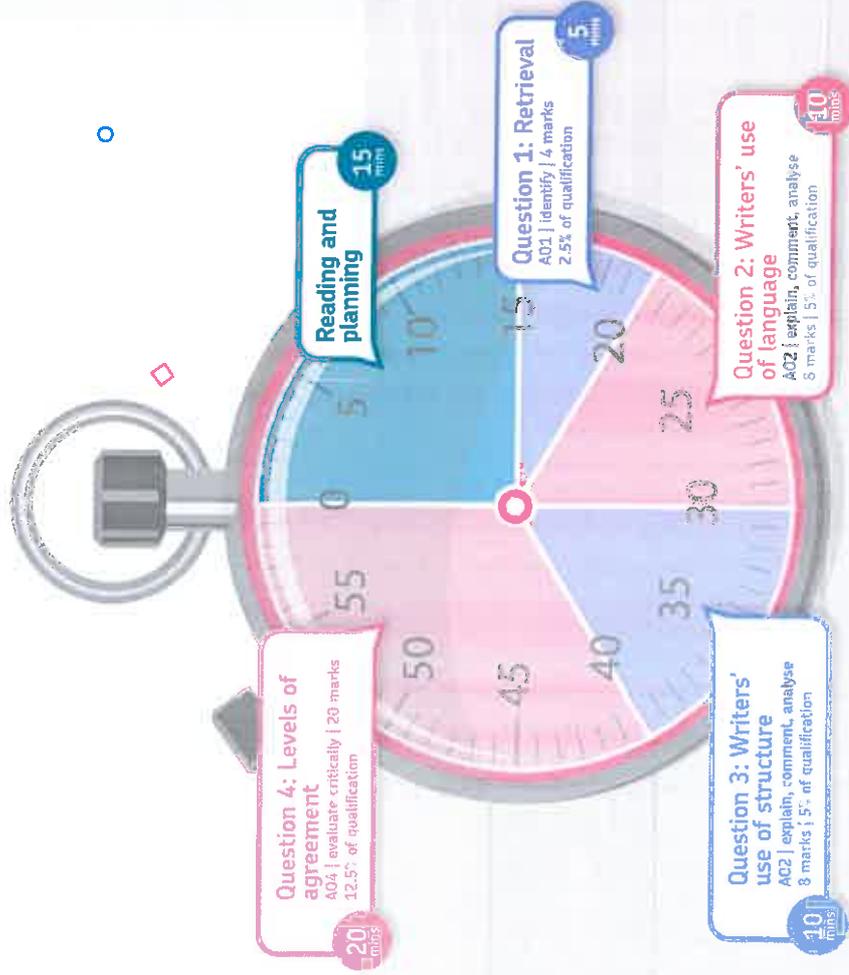
Sparknotes: <http://www.sparknotes.com/>

No Fear Shakespeare

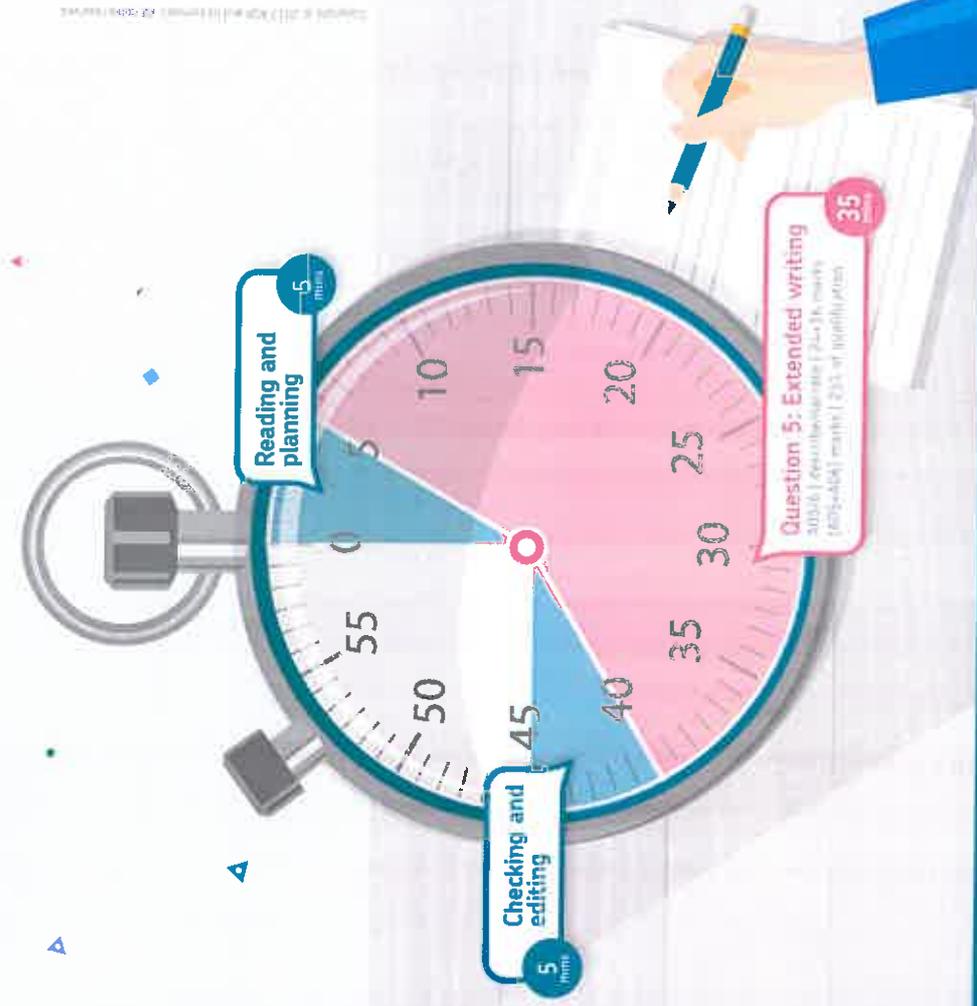
The Royal Shakespeare Company: <https://www.rsc.org.uk/education/teacher-resources>

Watching film versions and theatre performances of the literature texts will boost understanding.

Section A: reading



* Section B: writing



Exam timing ideas: an at-a-glance blueprint

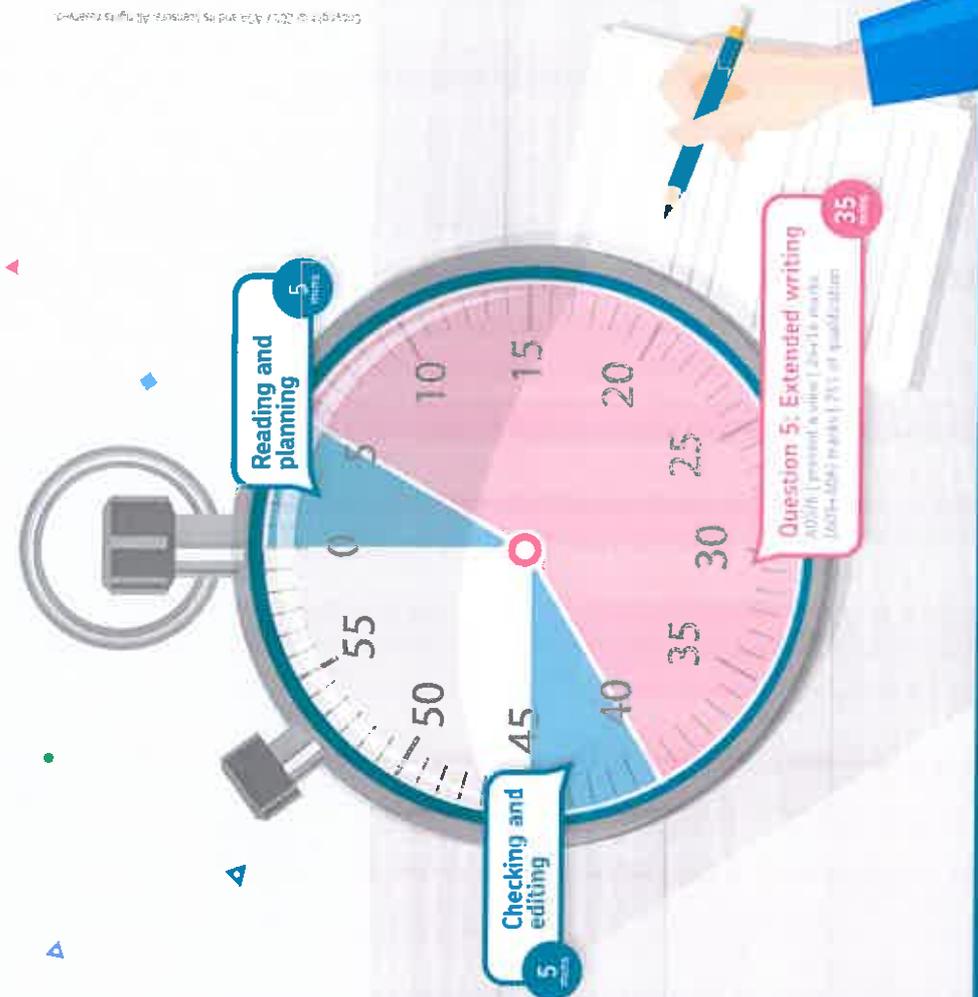
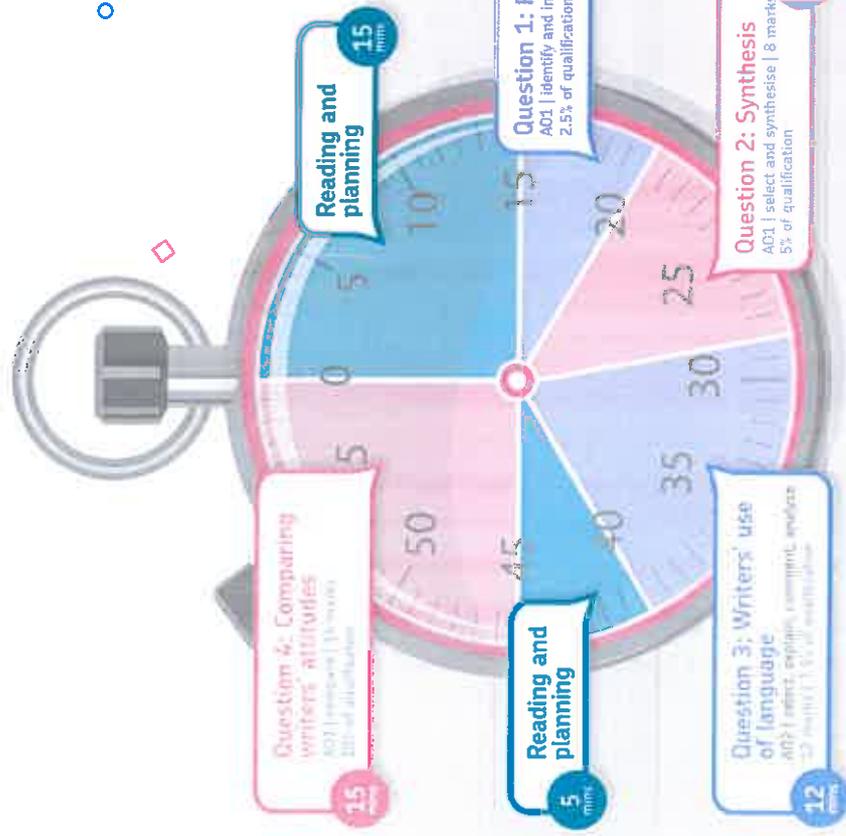
This document contains snapshot question descriptions. For complete detail, always check the [specification](#).

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Paper 2, writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Section A: reading

* Section B: writing



Exam timing ideas: an at-a-glance blueprint

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Exam timing ideas

Paper	Section	Question	AOs	Marks Available	% of Qualification	Suggested timing (minutes)
P1	Reading and planning for questions 1, 2 and 3					
P1	A (reading)	Q1	AO1	4	2.5%	15 minutes
P1	A (reading)	Q2	AO2 language	8	5%	5 minutes
P1	A (reading)	Q3	AO2 structure	8	5%	10 minutes
P1	A (reading)	Q4	AO4	20	12.5%	10 minutes
P1	Reading and planning for question 5					
P1	B (writing)	Q5	AO5 and AO6	40 (24+16)	25%	5 minutes
P1	Checking and editing					
						35 minutes
						5 minutes
P2	Readers' viewpoints and perspectives					
P2	Reading and planning for questions 1, 2 and 3					
P2	A (reading)	Q1	AO1	4	2.5%	15 minutes
P2	A (reading)	Q2	AO1 synthesis	8	5%	5 minutes
P2	A (reading)	Q3	AO2	12	7.5%	8 minutes
P2	Reading and planning for question 4					
P2	A (reading)	Q4	AO3	16	10%	12 minutes
P2	Reading and planning for question 5					
P2	B (writing)	Q5	AO5 and AO6	40 (24+16)	25%	5 minutes
P2	Checking and editing					
						15 minutes
						5 minutes
						8 minutes
						12 minutes
						5 minutes
						15 minutes
						5 minutes
						35 minutes
						5 minutes

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