



## GCSE English Literature

The Edexcel GCSE English Literature qualification is an **untiered** qualification. The assessment consists of **two externally examined papers**. It is a linear qualification so **all examination papers must be taken at the end of the course**. **Students cannot take a copy of the text into the examination**. The qualification will be graded and certificated on a nine grade scale from 9 to 1, where 9 is the highest grade.

### Subject content:

To gain a GCSE English Literature qualification students must write responses in the following 3 areas:

- 1. Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature-** This is assessed in **Paper 1** of the GCSE English Literature exam.
- 2. 19th-century Novel and Poetry-** This is assessed in **Paper 2** of the GCSE English Literature exam.

Paper 1- Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature		Exam breakdown
<p><b>Section A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shakespeare</li> </ul> <p>(Choice of texts includes <b>Romeo and Juliet</b> or <b>Macbeth</b>)</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post-1914 British play or novel</li> </ul> <p>(Choice of texts includes <b>An Inspector Calls</b> or <b>Animal Farm</b>)</p>	<p><b>Section A: Shakespeare:</b> Students will answer a two-part question, with the first task focused on an extract of approximately 30 lines. The second task is focused on how a theme reflected in the extract is explored <b>elsewhere</b> in the play.</p> <p><b>Section B: Post 1914 British Play or Novel:</b> Students will answer one essay question on either a Post-1914 British novel or play. They will be given a choice of two questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A written exam: 1 hr 45 mins</li> <li>Worth 80 marks</li> <li>Worth 50% of the GCSE</li> </ul>

Paper 2- 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Novel and Poetry		Exam breakdown
<p><b>Section A:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19th-century novel</li> </ul> <p>(Choice of texts includes <b>A Christmas Carol</b> or <b>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</b>)</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poetry anthology and unseen poetry</li> </ul> <p>(Choice of poetry themes are <b>Conflict</b> or <b>Love</b>)</p>	<p><b>Section A: 19<sup>th</sup> century Novel:</b> Students will answer a two part question, with the first part focussed on an extract of approximately 400 words. The second part is an essay question exploring the <b>whole</b> text.</p> <p><b>Section B: Poetry:</b> is made up of two parts-  Part 1: One question comparing a named poem from the anthology to another poem from that collection of their choice.  Part 2: One question comparing two unseen contemporary poems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A written exam: 2 hours 15 mins</li> <li>Worth 80 marks</li> <li>Worth 50% of the GCSE</li> </ul>

