

Autumn 2015

## 2015 Specifications

### GCSE English Language



## INTRODUCING EDUQAS

- In light of the diverging qualifications between England and Wales, WJEC has developed a new brand: Eduqas.
- Eduqas will be the brand that provides schools with WJEC's newly reformed Ofqual regulated GCSEs, AS and A levels.
- Eduqas enables teachers to clearly distinguish between legacy qualifications in Wales and reformed qualifications in England.
- Eduqas qualifications will primarily be available in England but also in Northern Ireland, Isle of Man and the Channel Islands at any schools offering Ofqual regulated qualifications.



## QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

GCSE English language will:

- be 100% examination
- require students to answer questions on unseen 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century texts (texts must include literature and extended literary non-fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism)
- have a Spoken Language endorsement
- allocate 20% of the marks for the written exams to technical accuracy
- be untiered;
- be graded 9 to 1 (9 being the highest) <http://ofqual.gov.uk/news/setting-standards-new-gcses-2017/>
- be fully linear with assessments available in the summer series
- have a November re-sit series for candidates 16 or over

## ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

### **Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing**

**Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes**  
**40% of qualification**

#### Section A (20%) – Reading

One extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the twentieth century

Total marks=40

#### Section B (20%) – Prose Writing

One creative writing task drawn from a selection of four titles

Total marks=40

## ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

**Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing**  
**Written examination: 2 hours**  
**60% of qualification**

Section A (30%) – Reading  
Two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing from the nineteenth and twenty-first centuries

Total marks=40

Section B (30%) – Writing  
Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks

Total marks=40

## ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

**Component 3: Spoken Language**  
**Non-exam assessment**  
**Unweighted**

One formal presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback.

Spoken language will be reported on as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES - READING

### **READING** (50% of overall qualification)

Read and understand a range of texts to:

- AO1**     • Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
  - Select and synthesise evidence from different texts
  
- AO2**     Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using **relevant** subject terminology to support their views
  
- AO3**     Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts
  
- AO4**     Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

Each Reading question in our Eduqas specification targets a specific assessment objective



## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES - WRITING

### **WRITING** (50% of the overall qualification)

- AO5**     Communicate clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences;  
Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
  
- AO6**     Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)



## ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES – SPOKEN LANGUAGE

### SPOKEN LANGUAGE (*Unweighted*)

- AO7** Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting
- AO8** Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations
- AO9** Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

## TRANSITION TO THE NEW SPECIFICATIONS - A REMINDER

- For those following a two-year course, first teaching September 2015.
- First qualification award Summer 2017.
- Last award of current specifications in GCSE English Language and English November 2016.

## PROGRESS 8

- Introduced for all secondary schools in 2016
- The best of English Language and English Literature will be double-weighted, provided a pupil has taken both qualifications.
- The second best score of English Literature and English Language can be counted in the 'open group' of subjects, if it is one of the pupil's highest scores in this group.
- The combined English qualification can be double-weighted in 2016 because pupils will have studied both English Language and English Literature to achieve this qualification.

**2017 Performance Measures: only the reformed GCSEs in English language and English literature will count in the 2017 secondary school performance measures**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/qualifications-counting-in-future-performance-tables>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grade-descriptors-for-gcse-graded-9-to-1>



## Eduqas Support

A full range of information and resources is available to help support you in the teaching of the new GCSE English Language specification. These include:

- [Specification](#) and [Sample Assessment Materials](#)
- [Teachers' Guide](#)
- Endorsed text books and interactive resources
- Marked specimen assessment exemplars on the secure website
- [KS3 units of work](#)
- [GCSE units of work on 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century non-fiction](#)
- [Resources on 20<sup>th</sup> Century Prose Reading](#)
- Spoken Language exemplar material



## FURTHER SUPPORT

- E-bulletins
- Teaching resources - including <http://resources.wjec.co.uk/>
- [i.e. – online magazine for English teachers](#)
- Online Exam Review: <http://oer.wjec.co.uk/>
- CPD Training
- Secure website [www.wjecservices.co.uk](http://www.wjecservices.co.uk) - for past papers, mark schemes, CPD materials
- [Ofqual Grade Descriptors](#)
- [Ofqual information on grading the new GCSEs](#)



## ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact our specialist Subject Officers and administrative support team for any queries.

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