

Summary of changes to English Language:

This specification has been developed in line with the Regulatory Requirements provided by the DfE and OFQUAL.

The assessment of Reading and Writing must be by 100% examination – this means the only controlled assessment will be for Spoken Language.

The examinations must be un-tiered – so there cannot be a higher or foundation tier paper.

The requirement is for a total of 3 ½ hours of examinations.

Students must respond to 19th, 20th and 21st century texts in every examination series.

Texts must cover a range of genres and types.

Texts must be high-quality and challenging.

Texts must include literature and extended literary non-fiction.

Students must compare texts.

Spoken Language (formerly Speaking and Listening) will still be required but reported separately as an endorsement and given a 0% weighting.

Spoken Language (formerly Speaking and Listening) remains part of the Assessment Objectives for GCSE English Language.

50% of the total marks must be for Reading.

50% of the total marks must be for Writing.

Please also note that 20% of the total GCSE marks must be allocated to ‘use of a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation’.

Our English Language specification is:

- accessible and enabling for all learning abilities
- familiar in the way that we’ve carried forward features that are popular in our current specifications
- innovative in introducing strategies to deal with un-tiered contexts

We have addressed the regulatory requirements through:

- two distinct papers, each of similar length and demand to minimise assessment fatigue and encourage equal performance
- single AO per question
- same questions on same papers in same sequence each series
- a range of question types and strategies – footprints through a paper, in effect, taking the student on an assessment journey
- exemplification of text types that will feature in live assessments
- writing tasks with a choice of stimulus materials
- assessment of technical accuracy through candidates’ own writing and not a separate task

What's new	What's gone	What's changed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A requirement to include a C19th, C20th, C21st text in each exam series • There will be an unseen literature, literary non-fiction and non-fiction texts in each exam series • Inclusion of high quality, challenging texts • 100% terminal assessment – two exam papers • Assessment time of 3.5 hours • Assessment objectives and weightings: • There is an increased emphasis on analysis and evaluation and on providing appropriate supporting textual reference • Synthesis of information from different texts is now a requirement • In writing, there is increased weighting and emphasis on technical accuracy • Assessment journey – questions of graduated challenge through the paper • Inclusion of line references to support students • A creative writing task on Paper 1 with a choice of stimulus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlled assessment • Tiered papers • Assessment of spoken language (current English Language Unit 3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking and listening is now referred to as spoken language • There is a requirement now for students to give a presentation and respond to questions • November resit for English Language for students who were at least 16 on the preceding 31st August. • Progress 8 and Attainment 8 measures can include a double weighted element:- either GCSE English Language, or GCSE English Literature can count for this double weighting providing both are taken.