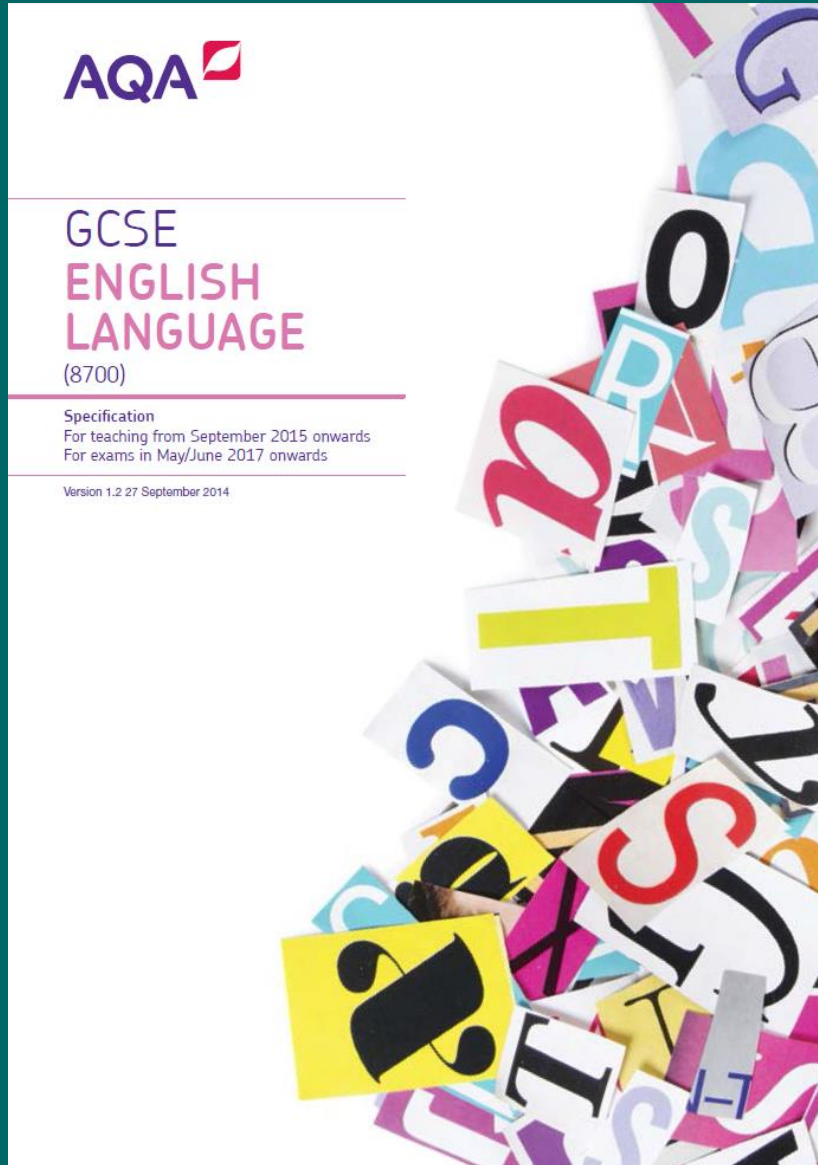


# Supporting Achievement in English 2024-25

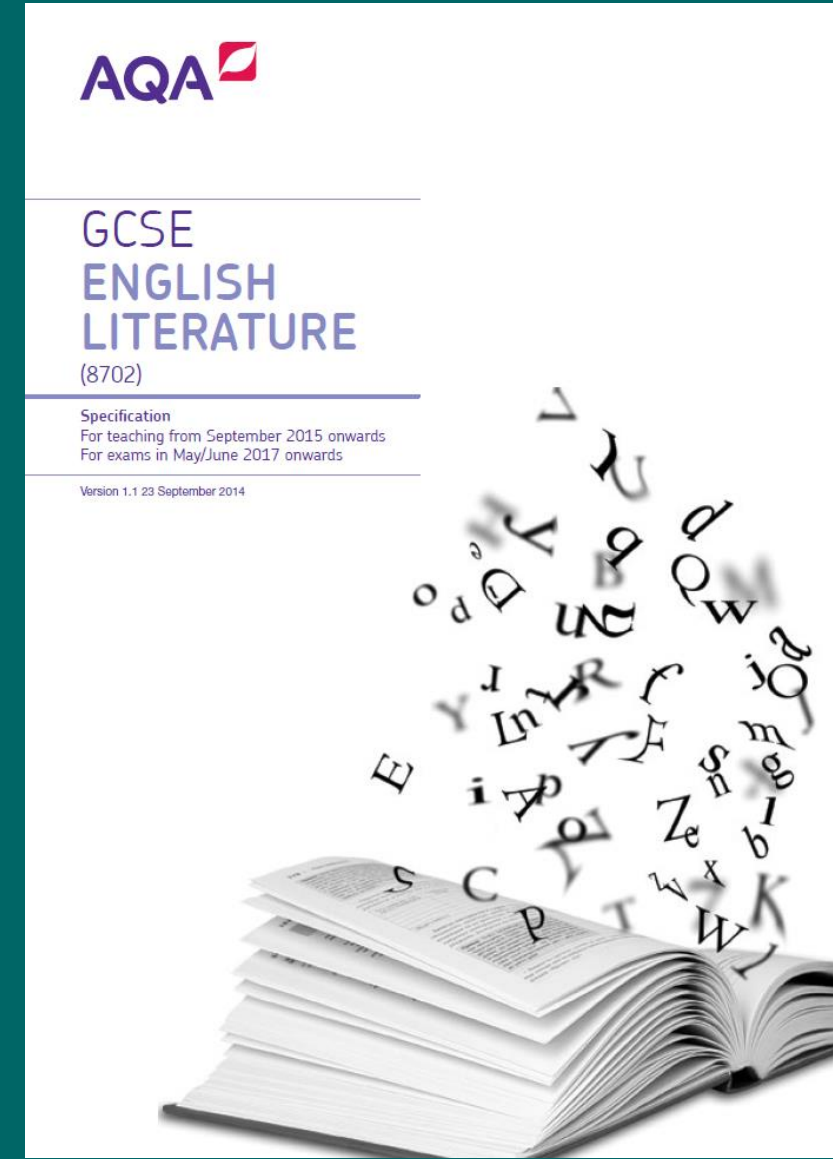
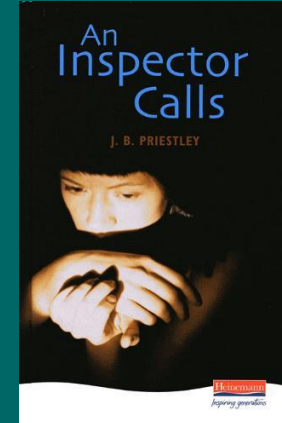


**AQA**

**GCSE  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE**  
(8700)

Specification  
For teaching from September 2015 onwards  
For exams in May/June 2017 onwards

Version 1.2 27 September 2014

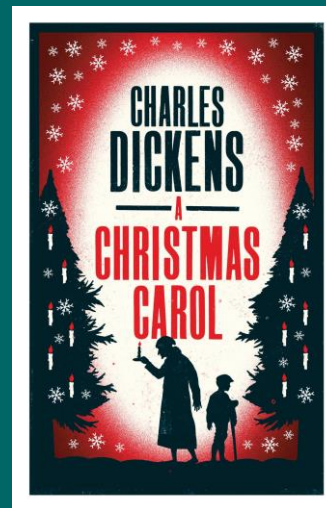


**AQA**

**GCSE  
ENGLISH  
LITERATURE**  
(8702)

Specification  
For teaching from September 2015 onwards  
For exams in May/June 2017 onwards

Version 1.1 23 September 2014



## Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

What is  
Assessed?

<b>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</b>	+	<b>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</b>	+	<b>Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language</b>
<b>What's assessed</b> <b>Section A: Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>one literature fiction text</li></ul> <b>Section B: Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>descriptive or narrative writing</li></ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> <b>Section A: Reading</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text</li></ul> <b>Section B: Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>writing to present a viewpoint</li></ul>		<b>What's assessed</b> (AO7–AO9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>presenting</li><li>responding to questions and feedback</li><li>use of Standard English</li></ul>
<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li><li>80 marks</li><li>50% of GCSE</li></ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</li><li>80 marks</li><li>50% of GCSE</li></ul>		<b>Assessed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>teacher set throughout course</li><li>marked by teacher</li><li>separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)</li></ul>



## 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



### 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

- Paper 1 requires students to read and unpick a fiction text. Reading fiction (novels and short stories) at home will help to develop these skills.
- Paper 2 requires students need to read and understand two non-fiction texts, one of which is from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Developing reading skills is essential. Reading non-fiction texts at home will help with this. Newspaper articles, readily available online or in print, are a good place to start. Try to discuss the content with your child.
- Both papers have a strong focus on writing skills. Around one third of the marks are for spelling, punctuation and grammar in the writing sections. Online tutorials will help students revise this e.g. BBC Bitesize.

What is  
Assessed?

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.

What is  
Assessed?

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.

What texts  
do we  
study?

## Literature Paper 1 (choose any two topics)

### Shakespeare

All students will study **Macbeth**

It is a good idea to buy a copy of this play for use in class.

### 19<sup>th</sup> century novel

All students have studied **A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.**

We asked students earlier in the year to get their own copies of this (available cheaply online)

## Literature Paper 2 (whole paper compulsory)

### Section A: Modern Text

All students will study a modern text in Year 11.  
This text is:

**An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley**

### Section B

#### **Anthology of poetry.**

Your child will be given an anthology of poems to study.

They will study this cluster of poems:

- **Power and Conflict**

**They will study 15 poems in total.**

### Section B

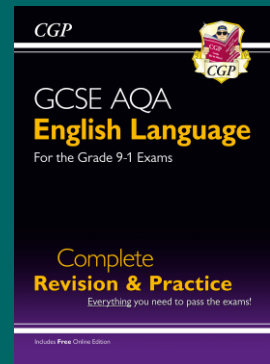
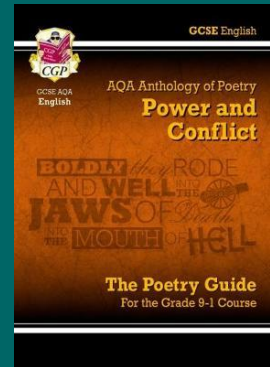
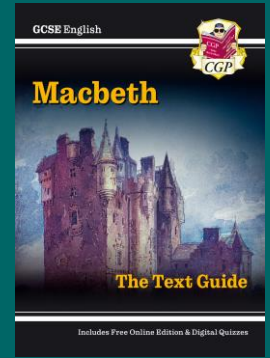
Part 1: unseen poetry essay

Part 2: unseen poetry comparison

**Students will not see these poems until the exam.**

# What you can do to support your child.

- Discuss the books and poems that they study with them! Ask them what their favourites are and why. Ask them about the writers' purpose and the context they were written in.
- Go and see productions with them if you can.
- Class materials are uploaded to Teams. This means that if your child misses a lesson, they can easily catch up. Taking the time to catch up on work missed is vital as every lesson covers exam content.
- Support your child to learn key quotations. Revision is hugely important.
- There are a range of online resources that can help your child, including YouTube tutorials. Mr Bruff and the Oak National Academy are good places to start.
- Buy revision guides. We recommend CGP guides. Our exam board is AQA.
- If your child is finding something difficult, please encourage them to talk to their teacher in the first instance, who will be happy to help.
- The English department run fortnightly SPAs (Supporting Pupil Achievement) on TUESDAYS. Students can go along and get some extra work and discuss anything with their teachers.



# What you can do to support your child to read.

- Reading is key. There is a proven correlation between reading and exam success across all subjects, including maths and Science.
- Exam papers written for someone with a reading age of 16, so students who have a lower reading age (based on vocabulary range and comprehension) are at a disadvantage.
- Reading lists and suggestions are available from your child's teacher.
- Just 15 – 30 minutes a day can make a difference.
- It's important to find books that your child enjoys. The Guardian, Waterstones, Penguin Books and The Bookseller.com all run annual young adult fiction awards. Looking at the shortlists for these is a good place to start.

