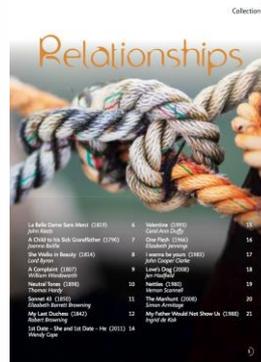
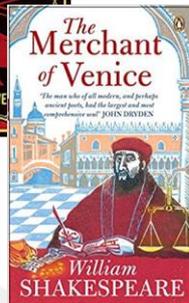
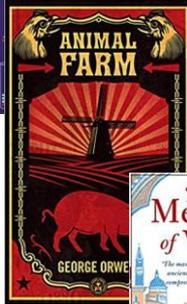
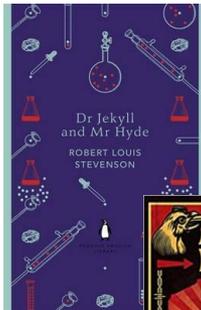


Belfairs Academy English Information Evening

Thursday 25th January 2018



AQA
GCSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(8700)
Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Time allowed: 1 hour

Materials

- For this paper you must have:
 - Source A - in Source B - which are provided as a separate insert
- Instructions**
 - Answer all questions.
 - Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
 - Fill in the boxes on this page.
 - Do not write outside the boxes and each page or on blank pages.
 - Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
 - You must refer to the marks covered provided.
 - You must not use a dictionary.
- Information**
 - The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
 - There are 40 marks for Section A.
 - You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
 - You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in Section A.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all four questions you have to answer.
- You should make sure you have sufficient time to check your answers.

AQA

Please write clearly in block capitals.

Centre number: Candidate number:

Surname:

Forename(s):

Candidate signature:

GCSE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
(8700)

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- Source A - printed within the question paper.

Instructions

- Answer all questions.
- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Fill in the boxes on this page.
- You must answer the questions in the spaces provided.
- Do not write outside the box around each page or on blank pages.
- Do all rough work in this book. Cross through any work you do not want to be marked.
- You must refer to the marks covered provided.
- You must not use a dictionary.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 40 marks for Section A and 40 marks for Section B.
- You are reminded of the need for good English and clear presentation in your answers.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your reading in Section A.
- You will be assessed on the quality of your writing in Section B.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 15 minutes reading through the source and all four questions you have to answer.
- You should make sure you have sufficient time to check your answers.



Your child will:

- be sitting **7 and 1/2 hours** of English examinations which will provide them with two GCSE grades: English Language and English Literature;
- have read and studied **18 Literature texts (2 novels, 1 play, 15 poems)** to prepare for the literature examinations (this doesn't include extra poetry that prepares students for the 'Unseen Poetry' section);
- respond to 7 Literature tasks across their two English Literature Papers;
- respond to ten tasks across their two English Language Papers.



To clarify:

Students will be sitting:

AQA English Language.
Edexcel English Literature

Seen Texts for Literature examination

Students have studied and are revising:

'Animal Farm'

'The Merchant of Venice'

'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'

A collection of poems under the heading of 'Relationships'

or

'Conflict'



FAQs

Who can I contact at Belfairs Academy about my child's progress in English?

Mrs H Heighington – Subject Leader for English

Mrs H Dobinson - Co-Ordinator GCSE English

Mrs Haddow – Assistant Vice Principal and Raising Standard Leader for Y11



The Examination Dates

Tuesday 22 May:

Literature Paper 1
'The Merchant of Venice' and 'Animal Farm'

Friday 25 May:

Literature Paper 2
'Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' and Poetry Comparison
(Seen and Unseen)

Tuesday 5th June:

English Language Paper 1
'Creative Reading and Writing'

Friday 8th June:

English Language Paper 2
'Writers' Viewpoints and Opinions'



The differences in the allocation of marks across the two disciplines

Each GCSE is awarded out of 160 marks; below are the grade boundaries awarded in Summer 2017 (and may be subject to change this summer):

	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
English AQA	123	113	104	93	82	72	53	34	16
Literature Edexcel	140	127	115	99	84	69	48	27	6



The Literature exams

Similar in tasks are '**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**' and '**The Merchant of Venice**'
: 2 questions, only 30 mins each.

Students must analyse the language in an extract/

Students must then write about an aspect of the rest of the novel – **selected From memory.**

'**Animal Farm**' – students have a choice of two essay titles. This is the exam for which students have the longest to write (55 minutes)

50% of the marks are for the inclusion of Context and Writer's Intentions – **this is the challenge.**

Poetry Seen– students must **compare** two poems which they have already studied (one is printed for them and the other is recalled from memory = students have only 35 minutes to write this)

Poetry Unseen – students must **compare** two poems and have 45 minutes to do so.



Literature: what can students do?

There simply is not a replacement for knowing the texts: plot, characters and their actions, themes, and in some cases the historical context which surrounds the text.

The challenge is that students no longer have the full texts in the exam so much is reliant on memory.

Students can generate character profiles for each character in each text:

- How is the character described by the narrator.
- what a character does, says, thinks,
- how other characters treat them and what is said by other characters about them.
- The students can then link characters to themes as the questions are equally about themes.



Language

50% of the marks are awarded for Reading. This means:

- Retrieval of information
- Selection of quotations to support ideas about the meanings within the text.
- Recognising the nuances within the text – being able to express the ideas held within the text.
- Using technical vocabulary to show knowledge and understanding

Students **MUST** use the 15 minutes reading time allocated within the language exams in order to annotate the extracts.

It is likely the second extract in Paper 2 will be from The Guardian – this is historically a favourite with AQA. Students should be reading articles in 'The Guardian' to develop familiarity with the level of language in such articles.



Language

50% of the marks are awarded for **Writing**

Students must show they can write for two distinct purposes: Creative and Expressing Opinion.

Range, accuracy and impact of vocabulary is measured twice within the mark scheme.

60% of the writing grade is based upon sophistication of ideas and the organisation of the ideas. Writing in the correct format is awarded within the 60%.

40% of the writing grade is based upon **the accuracy** of Spelling, punctuation and grammar.



Language Paper 1

Forms you are expected to be able to write in:

- **To Describe**
- **To narrate (write a story)**

These are very different in that to describe does not require a story arc, however to write an effective story within a 45 minute task is the more difficult of the two.

To write a story means students will be assessed on:

- Characterisation
- Setting
- Plot
- Themes

We advise many students not to write a story. This is where many students lost marks in their PPES.



Language Paper 2

Forms students may be expected to write in:

- A Letter to a person of either importance or familiarity.
- A speech to be delivered to people of importance or familiarity.
- An article for a broadsheet.

Where the task states 'Write..... in which you argue for **OR** against this Statement' **do not open** with '**I agree/disagree with this statement**'.

Your agreement, or disagreement, must become evident as your letter /speech/article develops.



Language Paper 2 – Opinion Topics

We cannot predict what on topic students will be asked to express an opinion upon.

The focus of the task is about expressing an opinion through a variety of Methods: express an opinion, develop that opinion and then justify that Opinion.

Last year's paper asked students to express opinion on Parenting styles.

Students should be able to express an extended opinion on:

Food Trends
Environment Trends
Social Issues
Education
Health
Leisure
The Environment

Should students suddenly feel the topic is out of reach to them, they need to be reassured it is not about knowledge, it is about skill to express opinion. But the more culturally aware students are the more opportunities they have in their writing.



Key words

Presents - how does the writer show?

Support your ideas – include quotes

Explore – expecting you to move through the text, generally with longer texts

Explain – tends to be used with 'Dr Jekyll' and 'The Merchant' part 2.

Compare - in the poetry questions but you can contrast

Consider - asks for a more personalised response

Evaluate – to comment upon strengths in the text.

Perspectives – change for 'ideas'

Context - look for the questions with this as a bullet point.

Significance - change for 'importance'



Next Steps

Students will be sitting a second series of PPEs in early March.

Lessons are currently addressing weaknesses as identified in PPEs.

Lessons are focused on building time management, speed and resilience
In writing, as well as reading skills, preparing then for the unseen elements
Of the examinations.

Students should have a revision timetable in place.

Independent study is expected as well as the home works are being set.

Students must be addressing their repeated errors in Spelling, Punctuation and
Grammar and ensuring these are corrected. Essential marks can
Be gained through accuracy.

