

GCSE English Language

Assessment Comparison Tool

Discover how
Eduqas could be
a better fit for
your learners



www.eduqas.co.uk/english

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Eduqas' GCSE English Language assessments provide learners with the opportunity to show that they can **understand** texts, and that they can **communicate effectively** for a given audience and purpose.

Our assessment of **Reading** requires comprehension and selection of relevant detail, while our assessment of **Writing** requires an appropriate choice of content shaped for its purpose. In both **Reading** and **Writing**, learners only need to write about or use 'techniques' where they are relevant and enhance their understanding or communication.

Use the comparison tool below to find out how our assessments compare to those of other exam boards:

Eduqas	AQA	OCR	Pearson	Pearson 2.0
Reading				
Paper 2 Non-Fiction has a higher tariff (60%) than Paper 1 Fiction (40%), prioritising 'real-world' skills.	Paper 1 Fiction tariff = 50% Paper 2 Non-Fiction tariff = 50%	Paper 1 Non-Fiction tariff = 50% Paper 2 Fiction tariff = 50%.	Paper 1 Fiction tariff = 40% Paper 2 Non-Fiction tariff = 60%.	Paper 1 Non-Fiction tariff = 50% Paper 2 Fiction and 'Literary Non-Fiction' tariff = 50%.
Our 20th Century Fiction text is engaging and character-led, with a clear narrative arc and sense of resolution.	Uses 'extracts' of texts.	Two Fiction texts - uses 'extracts'.	One Fiction text from the 19th Century - uses 'extracts'.	One Fiction and one 'Literary Non-Fiction' text; uses 'extracts'.
Eduqas has one 20th Century Fiction text (Paper 1) which is clearly divided into sections. Learners work through it chronologically, only dealing with the whole text in the final question.	A whole text 'structure' question appears in the middle of the reading section (Paper 1).	There are two fiction texts (Paper 2). Whole text questions start early on the reading section.	One fiction text from the 19th Century (Paper 1), which some learners may find less accessible than a 20th Century text.	The equivalent paper (Paper 2) includes two texts.
On our Paper 2 Non-Fiction paper, learners only deal with both texts together at the end of the reading section.	Learners have to deal with both texts together early in the reading section (Paper 2).	Learners have to deal with both texts together early in the reading section (Paper 1). There are 'both texts' questions on both Paper 1 and Paper 2.	Questions on both texts (Paper 2) are at the end of the reading section, but are worth 20 marks in total (questions 7a and 7b).	The questions on both texts (Paper 2) require learners to compare Fiction with 'Literary Non-Fiction'.
All 'long answer' questions are worth 10 marks . This helps learners with timing and means that the last question on the reading section is not a higher tariff.	The final reading question on Paper 1 is worth 20 marks. The final reading question on Paper 2 is worth 16 marks.	The final reading question on Paper 1 is worth 18 marks. The final reading question on Paper 2 is worth 18 marks.	The final reading question on Paper 1 is worth 15 marks. Paper 2 has seven questions, and the final reading questions (7a and 7b) are worth 20 marks.	The final reading question on Paper 1 is worth 12 marks. The final reading question on Paper 2 is worth 16 marks.
Learners approach all 'long answer' 10 mark questions in the same way: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Focus (on the question) ● Track (chronologically) ● Range (different aspects of meaning) 	Learners need to learn different approaches/exam technique for each longer question. This means they are focused on their approach to answering the question rather than on the unseen text resource.			
None of our questions isolate structure: if learners Track the text chronologically they will cover structure in terms of how the idea develops. All our questions have learner-friendly wording, putting the focus on content rather than 'technique'.	Question 3 on Paper 1 is a whole-text 'structure' question.	Questions often based on language rather than content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● e.g., 'How does the writer use language and structure... ?' 	Questions often based on language rather than content: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● e.g., 'How does the writer use language... ?' ● e.g., 'Compare the writers' ideas and perspectives' 	
Writing				
Eduqas offers four choices of title for narrative writing. We do not have a purely 'descriptive' option - our creative writing should be narrative based or reflective and we value a strong, authentic narrative voice.	Offers a choice of just one descriptive piece or one narrative title. Learners often struggle to make 'descriptive' writing meaningful so their writing can become a series of 'techniques' without any engaging character/voice.	Only two choices of task offered.		
Our transactional writing has a clear audience and purpose. The focus should be on specific, detailed, engaging content. We have two shorter tasks rather than one long task, allowing Learners to show range.	One long response required, with no choices. One task may be limiting, as learners can struggle to generate enough content to sustain the response.	One long response required from a choice of two. Tasks are linked thematically to the reading which may lead to reliance on the reading section. One task may be limiting, as learners can struggle to generate enough content to sustain the response.	One long response from a choice of two. One task may be limiting as learners can struggle to generate enough content to sustain the response.	

Why choose Eduqas for English Language?

While our clear and accessible approach to assessment provides every learner with the opportunity to shine, Eduqas also offers a comprehensive package of support for teachers:

Easy access to support, including free visits

Our subject experts are just an email or call away. Eduqas teachers can also access free advice and guidance both online or in-person from our Regional Support Team.

Free high-quality teaching resources

Our free online teaching resources are designed by an expert team to help guide teachers and learners through our specifications, and include:

- Exam Walkthroughs
- Knowledge Organisers
- interactive online Blended Learning materials
- an extensive range of Student Exemplars.

Expert-led training opportunities

We'll provide you with all the training you need to deliver our qualifications with confidence. Our Professional Learning Team delivers hundreds of training events each year.

Our comprehensive programme includes both free online exam feedback sessions and paid face-to-face training opportunities.

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"The Eduqas team has always been helpful and friendly.

We've also found their exams less unpredictable than those of some of the larger exam boards, and more accessible."

Emma Stockill

Head of English, Scalby School
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