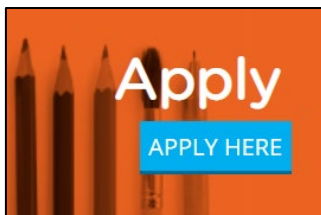


GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature Spring term 2026 Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope that you and your students had a good Easter break. In this term's edition, we will provide you with general and subject-specific updates, as well as information about revision resources, as we approach the summer exams.

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1. Become an Examiner – spaces still available for 2026!



We are delighted to share the news that we have grown in size for another consecutive year. Eduqas are now the second biggest provider of English qualifications at GCSE. This means we currently have vacancies to examine this summer for Eduqas GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

Examining is an excellent way of learning more about the requirements of the exam and thus supporting your students and developing your skills. It is your opportunity to see how the assessment objectives are applied across all the different questions. Training is face to face and will be held in Cardiff this year. You will be paid for attending the training as well as being reimbursed for all of your travel expenses. Marking is done online giving you the flexibility to mark at the time that suits you best.

For GCSE Literature you will be assessing specific texts – either *Romeo and Juliet* or *Macbeth* for Component 1 – with the anthology. Component 2 examiners will be assessing either *Lord of the Flies*, *An Inspector Calls* or *Blood Brothers*, then either *A Christmas Carol* or *Jekyll and Hyde*, and the Unseen Poetry. We do try and be flexible but cannot always guarantee that you will get the texts you request.

If you have any questions about the examining process then please email the subject team – gcseenglish@eduqas.co.uk.

To apply, or for any questions about the application process, go to the [appointees section](#) of the website.

2. GCSE English Language NEA (June Series 2026)

Spoken Language Component 3

For GCSE English Language Component 3, grades must be entered on the [WJEC Portal](#) by 5th May 2026. Centres must also submit audio-visual recordings for a sample of their cohort. For each candidate, centres will enter either P (Pass), M (Merit), D (Distinction) or N (not classified).

Please note that centres select their own sample for Component 3 using the formula in the table below.

Sample Sizes

No of cand's at centre	No. of cand's whose presentations must be recorded	Minimum no. of cand's at each grade (D, M, P) +
30 or fewer	All cand's	10++
Over 30	30	10+++

The sample should be representative of the teaching groups within the centre.

+ All candidates at a grade if the centre has fewer than the stated minimum. Candidates assessed

as 'N' (Not Classified) should not be included.

++ For example, if a centre has 15 D candidates, 11 M candidates and 3 P candidates, all of these candidates will be in the sample.

+++ For example:

if a centre has 21 D candidates, 14 M candidates and 3 P candidates, the sample will consist of 10 of the D candidates, 10 of the M candidates and all of the P candidates, with 7 additional candidates (from D and/or M) to make the overall sample up to 30.

if a centre has no D candidates, 7 M candidates and 60 P candidates, the sample will consist of all of the M candidates and 23 of the P candidates.

Submission of audio-visual samples

Upload to [Portal](#)

Complete and unedited samples should be uploaded to our internal assessment mark input system (IAMIS). Information on how to do this can be found [here](#) and a video which takes you through the process can be found [here](#).

Check that the recordings are accessible and audible before uploading. One file should be submitted per candidate.

The file name for each individual recording must contain the following information:

component code
centre number
candidate number
candidate name
proposed grade (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Not Classified)
e.g. C700U30-1 _12345_0001_Jones M_Pass

A separate file should be created for each candidate. The preferred format for saving recordings of the candidates' presentations is mp4 as it is the most widely supported format across media players.

A candidate may request to carry forward a previous grade for the Spoken Language Endorsement, even if it was awarded by a different awarding body. In such cases, centres must ensure the candidate is entered using the same Unique Candidate Identifier (UCI) as was used when the candidate previously obtained the endorsement, then input a 'Carry Forward' indicator on the online system as normal.

Head of Centre Declaration

The Head of Centre must sign a [declaration](#) in order to confirm that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that all candidates entered for WJEC Eduqas GCSE English Language have completed the spoken language assessment. The [declaration](#) should be signed by 5th May 2026 and emailed to spokenlanguagestatement@eduqas.co.uk.

Internal standardisation

Spoken Language standardised exemplars and commentaries are available on [Portal](#) to support teachers standardising the marking of the NEA presentations. They can be located by selecting 'All services' > 'Resources' > 'Subject-Specific Support Material including CPD and Exemplars' and then entering 'spoken language' in the search box. Remember to select the Eduqas brand in the 'Options' filters.

Subject-Specific Support Material including CPD & Exemplars

INFO : Use the dropdown lists to select subject, level and section and click "search"

Options

Subject

Brand

Level

Type of document

Publication Year

Language

All

Eduqas

All

All

All

English

Enter free text search

spoken language

SEARCH

We also have a wealth of guidance and support material on our English Language subject page under [Key Documents](#).

3. Outgoing anthology – last assessment summer 2026

The outgoing poetry anthology will be assessed for **the last time** in summer 2026.

An electronic copy of this outgoing [poetry anthology](#) for examination in summer 2026 only is available from the website. This can be downloaded as a pdf or as a word copy. The word copy can be used to support learners who need a larger text size as the font can be edited.

We have a range of teaching and learning resources to support the outgoing anthology including our [using contexts effectively](#) resources which look at each of the poems in the anthology. You can find lots more on our [Resources](#) website.

4. Poetry Anthology (new, first assessed in 2027)

A reminder to centres that we have produced a new anthology for the Eduqas GCSE English Literature specification for first teaching in September 2025 and first exam series in summer 2027. The current anthology will be examined for the last time in summer 2026.

The ordering process for the new anthology is outlined below. To ensure centres are ordering the correct anthology for their cohort of entry, the current anthology's front cover has been updated with the new end date, and the new anthology has a different front cover. **A digital version of the new anthology can be found [here](#).** This version can be edited by centres using the functionality of Adobe Acrobat if centres need to increase font size or type. There is also a downloadable pdf version of the anthology which has a font size of 18. This can be found on the [subject page](#) of our website.

There are 15 poems in the new anthology. **A reduction of 3 from the 18 in the current anthology.** We recognise the workload of teachers and to support you we have produced [a free set of surround resources](#) – one for each new poem.

Each poem has:

- A Blended Learning Resource. Blended learning resources contain interactive self-study content. They can be used in the classroom or at home and are designed to complement traditional face to face teaching.
- A Knowledge Organiser. Knowledge organisers can be used as revision tools or as starting points for learning.

All of our new poetry resources can be found [here](#).

Ordering Process

New anthologies are now only available to order via this [Microsoft Form](#).

The email inbox previously used for ordering anthologies has now been discontinued.

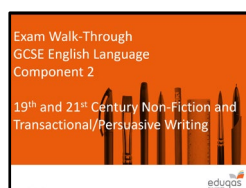
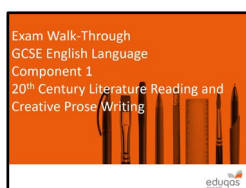
If there are any queries about the ordering process, then please e-mail the subject team gcseenglish@eduqas.co.uk.

As a reminder, there are 15 poems in the new anthology. These poems are:

The Schoolboy	William Blake
I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud	William Wordsworth
Sonnet 29	E Barrett Browning
Cousin Kate	Christina Rossetti
Drummer Hodge	Thomas Hardy
I Shall Return	Claude McKay
Disabled	Wilfred Owen
Decomposition	Zulfikar Ghose
Catrin	Gillian Clarke
Kamikaze	Beatrice Garland
Blackberry Picking	Seamus Heaney
War Photographer	Carol Ann Duffy
Dusting the Phone	Jackie Kay
Remains	Simon Armitage
Origin Story	Eve L Ewing

5. English Language Resources to help students prepare for the summer exams

Exam Walk Throughs – GCSE English Language

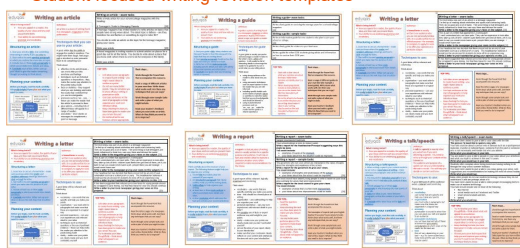


Aimed at learners, these [Exam Walk Throughs](#) offer practical hints and tips on how to effectively approach questions in the examination paper. You can complete the “mock” in a single sitting, tackle one or two questions at a time or revisit some parts of the presentation to reinforce learning.

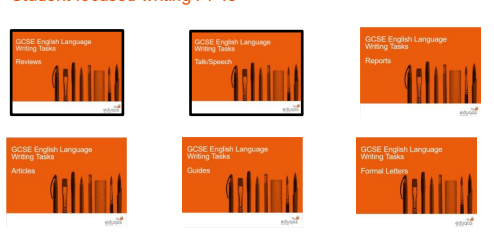
English Language transactional writing revision resources

These student focused revision PowerPoints and revision sheets will help learners prepare for Component 2 Section B.

Resources and Support
Student focused writing revision templates



Resources and Support
Student focused writing PPTs



You can find all the materials [here](#).

Blended Learning Resources

Blended Learning Resources are designed to complement teaching with an online learning pack that allows students to work at their own pace. They can be used as revision by students, as part of catch up or for flipped learning. These resources should not be seen as a way to deliver the content in a classroom setting and should always be blended with conventional method.

These student-focused blended learning resources for GCSE English language cover key skills such as:

- [comparison](#)
- [planning](#)
- [proofreading](#)
- [developing detail](#)
- [narrative and transactional writing](#)
- [analysis](#)

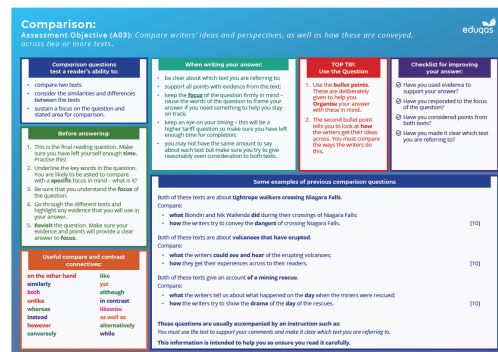
Knowledge Organisers



The resources site provides a number of knowledge organisers to support the learning of [GCSE English Language](#). These could be used for revision or as a starting point for learners to create their own knowledge organisers.

For GCSE English language we have knowledge organisers for the following:

- [Comparison](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Explain, comment and analyse](#)
- [Narrative Writing](#)
- [Non-fiction writing](#)
- [Proofreading](#)
- [Purpose, organisation and content](#)
- [Retrieval of explicit and implicit information](#)
- [Synthesising information](#)
- [Analysing texts](#)
- [Structuring writing](#)
- [Technical accuracy in writing](#)



Comparison:
Assessment Objective (AO3): Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.

Comparison questions
Test a student's ability to:

- compare two texts
- consider the similarities and differences between the texts
- sustain a focus on the question and avoid drift for comparison

When writing your answer:

- be clear about which text you are referring to
- support all points with evidence from the text
- keep the focus of the question firmly in mind - the words of the question to frame your answer if you need something to help you stay on track
- keep an eye on your timing - you will have a higher level question or make sure you have left enough time for comparison
- you may not have the same amount to say about each text but make sure you try to give reasonably even consideration to both texts

Before answering:

1. This is the final reading question. Make sure you have left yourself enough time. Practice this!
2. Underline the key words in the question. You are likely to be asked to compare with a specific focus in mind - what is it?
3. Be sure that you understand the focus of the question
4. Go through the different texts and highlight any evidence that you will use in your answer
5. Reread the question. Make sure your evidence and points will provide a clear answer to focus.

Useful comparatives and contrastives

on the other hand	like
similarly	yet
both	although
unlike	in contrast
whereas	however
instead	as well as
nevertheless	alternatively
conversely	while

Some examples of previous comparison questions

Both of these texts are about **lightning walkers** creating **Hogwarts Falls**.

Compare:

- what **difficulties** and **challenges** **did** during their crossings of **Hogwarts Falls**.
- how the writers try to convey the **danger** of crossing **Hogwarts Falls**.

Both of these texts are about **volcanoes** that have **erupted**.

Compare:

- what the writers **could see and hear** of the erupting volcanoes
- how they get their experiences across to their readers.

Both of these texts give an account of a **missing reason**.

Compare:

- what the writers tell us about what happened on the **day** when the miners were rescued
- how the writers try to show the **horror** of the day of the rescue.

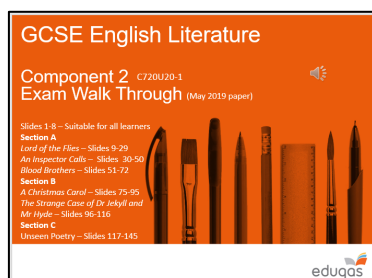
These questions are usually accompanied by an instruction such as:

You must use the text to support your comments and make it clear which text you are referring to.

This information is intended to help you to ensure you read it carefully.

6. English Literature Resources to help students prepare for the summer exams

Exam Walk Through – GCSE English Literature Component 1 and Component 2



GCSE English Literature

Component 2 C720120-1
Exam Walk Through (May 2019 paper)

Slides 1-8 – Suitable for all learners

Section A
Lord of the Flies – Slides 9-29
An Inspector Calls – Slides 30-50
Blood Brothers – Slides 51-72

Section B
A Christmas Carol – Slides 73-95
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Slides 96-116

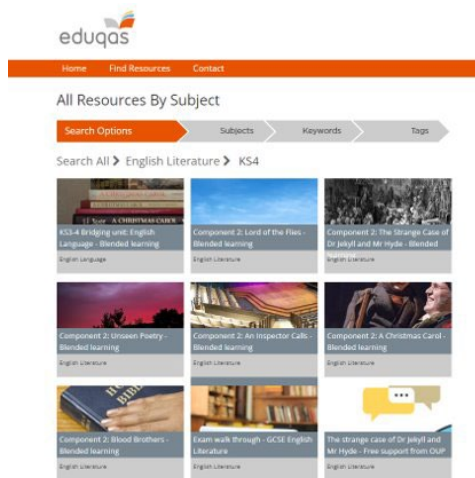
Section C
Unseen Poetry – Slides 117-145

eduqas

Aimed at learners, these [Exam Walk Through](#) resources offer practical hints and tips on how to effectively approach questions in the examination paper. You can complete the “mock” in a single sitting, tackle one or two questions at a time or revisit some parts of the presentation to reinforce your learning.

Blended Learning Resources

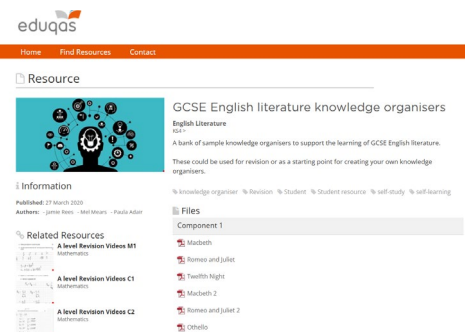
English Literature



Our English literature Blended Learning Resources contain interactive self-study content covering key characters, themes and approaches. We have Blended Learning Resources for the following texts:

- [Twelfth Night](#)
- [Boys Don't Cry](#)
- [Leave Taking](#)
- [Lord of the Flies](#)
- [The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde](#)
- [Unseen Poetry](#)
- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [A Christmas Carol](#)
- [Blood Brothers](#)
- [KS3-4 English Language / Literature Bridging Unit: A Christmas Carol](#)
- [New Poetry Anthology](#)

Knowledge Organisers



The resources site provides a number of knowledge organisers to support the learning of GCSE English literature. These could be used for revision or as a starting point for learners to create their own knowledge organisers.

Component 1:

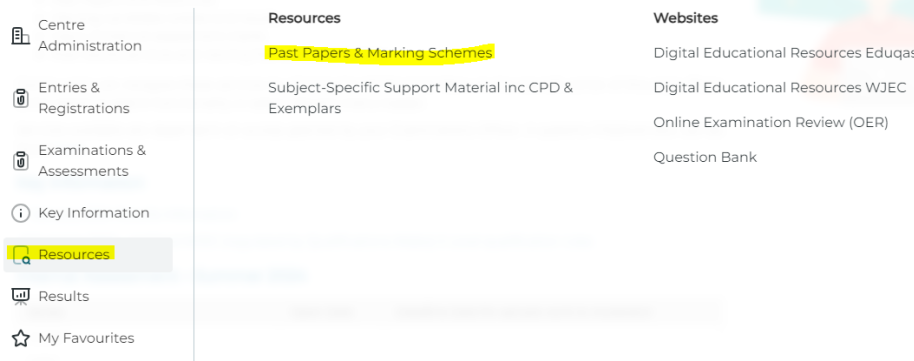
- [Macbeth](#)
- [Romeo and Juliet](#)
- [Twelfth Night](#)
- [New Poetry Anthology](#)

Component 2:

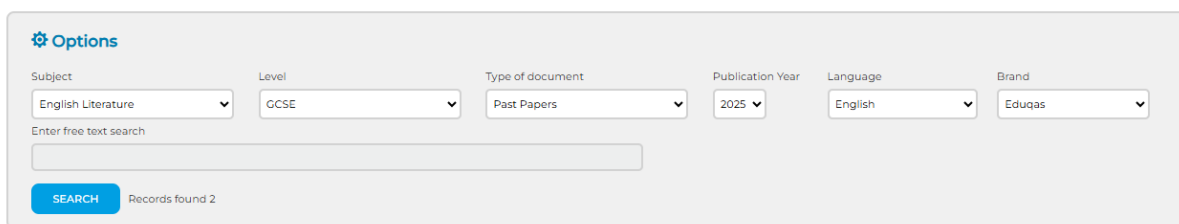
- [Boys Don't Cry](#)
- [Leave Taking](#)
- [Blood Brothers](#)
- [Lord of the Flies](#)
- [Unseen Poetry](#)
- [Woman in Black](#)
- [Jekyll and Hyde](#)
- [A Christmas Carol](#)
- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [War of the Worlds](#)

7. Past Papers and Marking Schemes

Copies of the summer 2025 question papers and marking schemes are available for centres to view on. If you don't have access, please contact your exams officer. After selecting 'All Services' in the top left of the screen, 'select Resources' followed by 'Past Papers & Marking Schemes':



You can then use the dropdown menus to choose the papers or marking schemes that you are looking for:



The screenshot shows the 'Options' search filter form. It includes dropdown menus for Subject (English Literature), Level (GCSE), Type of document (Past Papers), Publication Year (2025), Language (English), and Brand (Eduqas). There is a text input field for 'Enter free text search' and a 'SEARCH' button. Below the button, it says 'Records found 2'.

GCSE JUNE 2025 - Past Papers

Filename	Description	Subjects	Levels	Brand	Attachments
 C720U10-1-120525.pdf	GCSE JUNE 2025 - ENGLISH LITERATURE (EDUQAS) COMPONENT 1 (E-PROCESSING)	English Literature	GCSE	Eduqas	
 C720U20-1-200525.pdf	GCSE JUNE 2025 - ENGLISH LITERATURE (EDUQAS) COMPONENT 2 (E-PROCESSING)	English Literature	GCSE	Eduqas	

Past papers and marking schemes from earlier series are freely available on the public website page for [GCSE English language](#) and [GCSE English literature](#).

Example candidate responses are also housed on Portal under Resources – Subject Specific Support Material including CPD & Exemplars.

8. Summer 2026 exams – word processed responses and rubric infringements.

The Principal Examiners for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature noted a high number of illegible responses in 2025. Centres are reminded that candidates can use a word processor if there is a need for it.

The Principal Examiner reports for GCSE English Literature also noted that there were a high number of rubric infringements where candidates were working their way through the paper or treating each extract as 'unseen'. Centres are reminded of the importance of allowing candidates to see a whole paper prior to sitting the live papers to enable them to have the experience of navigating to the texts they have studied.

9. Professional Learning (CPD) Provision 2026 - 2027

Our new Professional Learning programme for 2026-2027 will be released soon – watch this space!

Materials from Previous Professional Learning Events

Previous PL materials for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature are on [Portal](#).

10. Eduqas and Lit in Colour

Eduqas and Lit in Colour's social impact programme celebrates one year of collaboration by extending partnership

We are excited to announce that following a successful year of partnering with inclusivity champion Penguin Book's Lit in Colour campaign, we are extending our collaboration for another year. Our joint initiative aims to encourage even more schools and colleges to deliver texts by authors of colour, and thus supporting greater representation in English Literature classrooms.

Support available to our schools and colleges

Lit in Colour offers a **FREE** comprehensive package of support to our schools and colleges, which includes:

- **FREE** Professional learning events which focus on race and representation in both texts
- Online author enrichment events
- **FREE** copies of the *Boys Don't Cry* and/or *Leave Taking* texts (centres are able to request the number needed for their cohort so that your centre has enough copies for each learner to use)
- A **FREE** 'reading for pleasure' library books donation (set amount of 250 - 300 books) and an accompanying Professional Learning session to help you make the best use of this book donation.

Further details are available [here](#).

If you are teaching *Boys Don't Cry* and/or *Leave Taking* in September 2026, and would like to join our programme please [register your interest](#) today.

Please register your interest by: **30/4/2026**.

In addition to the above, Lit in Colour has now launched [Canon in Colour](#). Canon in Colour is a new set of free teacher resources designed to support the teaching of classic 19th century texts through the lens of race and empire (for example, resources on **Race and Empire in A Christmas Carol**). Featuring expert video introductions and downloadable teacher guides, the resources help bring vital historical context into GCSE and A Level English teaching.

11. Resource Guides



Our Resource Guides provide an overview of the support, guidance and resources available to those teaching the Eduqas GCSE English specifications across our suite of websites.

[GCSE English Language Resource Guide](#)

[GCSE English Literature Resource Guide](#)

12. Key Dates

Key dates for this academic year have been posted on the Eduqas website:

[GCSE English Language](#)

[GCSE English Literature](#)

13. Regional Support Team

Did you know that we have a Regional Support Team who can offer you any support which you may need?

This includes:

- providing face-to-face and online advice to new and existing centres at a time which is convenient to the centre
- giving practical advice on the best resources for a subject including our digital resources and Online Exam Review
- supporting teachers who are new to a particular subject by going through assessment structure, exam papers, and where to find various resources needed for teaching the subject
- advising centres who are thinking of switching to us

The team is made up of former teachers who understand exactly what kind of support you need to get the most out of your classroom experience. And all the support which they offer is free of charge!

You can find out more, including the regional representative for your area, on our [Regional Support Team](#) page.

14. Next newsletter

The next issue will be sent out in September 2026. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please get in touch with the GCSE English team

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