

GCSE English Language

TEACHING FROM 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my centre able to make entries for GCSE English Language?

The Eduqas GCSE English Language qualification is available to:

- all schools and colleges in England
- schools and colleges in independent regions such as Isle of Man and the Channel Islands
- independent schools in Wales.

These qualifications are **not** available for candidates in maintained schools and colleges in Wales.

How is the overall grade for GCSE English Language reported?

The qualification is graded 9-1 (9 being the highest).

How many exam components are there?

There are two exam components.

Component 1 (20th Century Literature Reading Study and Creative Prose Writing) is worth 40% of the qualification and the exam is 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Component 2 (19th and 21st Century Literature Reading Study and Transactional/Persuasive Writing) is worth 60% of the qualification and the exam is 2 hours.

Where can I find past papers and marking schemes for the GCSE English Language specification?

Past papers and marking schemes are available on the English Language [subject page](#) of the WJEC Eduqas website. They are also available on the [secure website](#).

How can I access exemplar materials that demonstrate the marking standards for the exam components?

We have examples of candidate responses on our main English language webpage under [Key Documents](#) and in our [CPD materials](#).

Is there any non-examination assessment (NEA) in the qualification?

Yes. Component 3 is internally assessed and externally monitored.

Students are required to complete a Spoken Language presentation and respond to questions. The NEA is an endorsement which means it is reported as a separate grade (Pass, Merit, Distinction, Not Classified).

Does the Spoken Language endorsement contribute to the overall 9-1 grade?

No. This assessment is unweighted as it is an endorsement. Spoken Language is reported on as part of the qualification, but it does not form part of the final 9-1 mark and grade.

How is the Spoken Language grade reported?

The grade is reported alongside the student's overall 9-1 GCSE grade on the exam certificate. There are four possible grades: Not Classified, Pass, Merit, Distinction.

Is the Spoken Language component compulsory?

Component 3 is a compulsory part of the qualification and head teachers of centres are asked to sign a declaration each series stating that reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that all candidates entered for WJEC Eduqas GCSE English language have completed the Spoken Language assessment.

When should I do the NEA tasks with my students?

Centres can choose to cover the NEA at any point during the two-year course. Centres should, however, ensure that there is sufficient time to allow for internal standardisation, to undertake and complete any internal appeals, and to input grades prior to the deadline of 5 May.

Are there NEA exemplars that can be used by teachers to help develop a common understanding of the assessment criteria?

Yes. There are 12 exemplar videos with commentaries on each. These are on our [secure website](#) under the Resources tab.

How will the centre's NEA assessment be monitored by WJEC Eduqas?

Each year a sample of the centre's candidate presentations will be recorded and submitted to a WJEC EDUQAS.

The sample presentations will be standardised by the centre's designated monitor to check the centre's assessment is accurate and in line with the standards, as exemplified in the exemplar material, and that the tasks are appropriate, i.e. that the candidates are giving a "presentation" with the appropriate level of formality and challenge. No report on the sample will be sent to the centre unless the monitor has indicated concern about the accuracy of the assessment or the appropriateness of the task setting. If there are any concerns about either assessment or task setting, WJEC EDUQAS will put in place additional support for the following year.

Please note that centres select their own sample for Spoken Language. For sampling procedures and guidance on recording the presentations please refer to this [document](#).

How do I submit the grades for the Spoken Language assessment?

Marks are submitted to WJEC via the secure website,

Candidates' names/ numbers are pre-populated on the system from the entries the centre has made. You can submit grades as soon as the submission window opens. Grades **must** be inputted and submitted by the submission deadlines.

For further details, please refer to the guidance on our [Internal Assessment webpage](#).

What should I do if I need to request an extension to the NEA submission deadline?

Where a centre has been affected by circumstances beyond its control, it may, in exceptional cases, be possible to grant a short extension. Such exceptional cases could include technical issues at the centre; individual candidates with health issues; school disruption e.g. fires or severe weather issues at or around the submission date.

In such instances the centre should contact the GCSE English team who will consider the request for an extension. Contact details can be found on the [subject page](#).

It is not possible to grant an extension on the basis of internal appeals, school holidays, or long-term teacher absence, for example.

What should I do if one of my students needs to make access arrangements?

Some candidates may be entitled to certain arrangements to support them whilst taking examinations.

A wide range of arrangements are available - e.g. provision of reader, scribe, extra time etc.

Information about how to make applications can be found on our [Special Requirements webpage](#)

Do you offer training for centres?

Yes. Details of our [training](#) can be found on the Eduqas website along with [training materials](#) from previous events. Our [Regional Support Team](#) is also on hand to support centres and can provide face-to-face and online advice at a time which is convenient to you.

What resources are available to help me deliver this course?

There are plenty of resources tailored to support you in delivering GCSE English Language. Some can be found under Key Documents on the [qualification page](#), which is where you will also find the Teacher Handbook for GCSE English

Language. On our [Eduqas Digital Resources](#) site you will find lots of free interactive resources developed to support our specifications including exam walk-throughs, knowledge organisers and blending learning resources.

Are there textbooks to support the delivery of the new specifications?

Endorsed textbooks are available from Oxford University Press and Hodder Education.

Are there any re-sit opportunities for GCSE English Language?

There is a re-sit opportunity in the autumn for GCSE English Language. This is only available to candidates who have reached the age of 16 on or before the 31st August preceding the November exam series.

Candidates must re-sit all examination components in the same series. Grades for NEA may be carried forward for the life of the specification.

Is there a newsletter that centres can subscribe to?

Yes. We publish newsletters termly and teachers can subscribe using this [link](#).

If I have any more questions who do I contact?

The GCSE English Language team and the wider Eduqas team will be happy to answer any queries you might have.

For administration queries please contact:

GCSE Admin Section
029 2026 5082/5154/5420
gcse@wjec.co.uk

For access arrangements please contact:

Special Requirements Section
029 2026 5155
Specialrequirements@wjec.co.uk

For all other subject queries please contact:

GCSE English Team
029 2240 4288
gcseenglish@eduqas.co.uk