

A group of four students in school uniforms are gathered around a table in a library. A female student stands and holds an open book, looking at it with the others. Two other students are seated at the table, looking up at the book. A fourth student stands behind them, also looking at the book. The background shows bookshelves filled with books and a quote on the wall: "A good book when you turn the last page and feel as if you have lost a friend. - Paul".

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

ASSESSMENT COMPARISON TOOL

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We want students to show their engagement with whole texts, understanding what Literature can teach them about their lives, relationships and important ideas.

Feature	Eduqas	AQA
Specification		
Component 1	Shakespeare & Anthology Poetry (2hr)	Shakespeare & 19th Century Prose (1hr 45)
Component 2	Modern Prose or Drama, 19th Century Prose & Unseen Poetry (2 hr 30)	Modern Prose or Drama, Anthology Poetry & Unseen Poetry (2 hr 15)
Insight	We have given a little more time for students, particularly on the component with three elements. We have arranged the text types to give students variety across each component.	Both Anthology and Unseen Poetry comes together on Paper 2.
Books	All exam boards offer the same core texts that are most popular with teachers: Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls. All boards also now offer more diverse texts including Boys Don't Cry (Malorie Blackman) and Leave Taking (Winsome Pinnock). There are variations in the less commonly used texts. For example, Eduqas is the only exam board to offer Oranges are not the Only Fruit (Jeanette Winterson).	
Shakespeare		
	• Extract (15 marks) • Whole text essay (25 marks)	• Extract-based essay (34 marks)

Our ethos for GCSE English Literature is very similar to that for GCSE English Language so there are common approaches which students can adopt for both GCSEs.

OCR	Pearson
Specification	
Modern Prose or Drama with Unseen Prose & 19th Century Prose (2 hr)	Shakespeare & Modern Prose or Drama (1 hr 45)
Anthology Poetry & Shakespeare (2hr)	19th Century Prose, Anthology Poetry and Unseen Poetry (2hr 15)
Unseen Prose instead of Unseen Poetry. The Unseen Prose is used in connection with a studied Modern Text.	Both Anthology and Unseen Poetry comes together on Paper 2.
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Shakespeare	
Choice of extract-based essay OR essay (40 marks)	- Extract (20 marks) - Linked essay (20 marks)

Anthology Poetry, Modern Prose or Drama, 19th Century Prose, and Unseen Poetry »

Eduqas	AQA
Anthology Poetry	
NEW Anthology for first teaching Sept 2025 • One printed poem (15 marks) • Comparison with one chosen poem (25 marks) We are the only exam board to ask students to write about the printed poem on its own first, and then to use their response as a basis for comparison with their chosen poem	Comparison of two poems, one printed (40 marks) Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response.
Modern Prose or Drama	
• Extract-based essay (40 marks) Students and teachers particularly like that we provide an extract as a starting point for the essay.	• Essay - one from a choice of two (40 marks)
19th Century Prose	
• Extract-based essay (40 marks) The format of the question is the same as that for the Modern Text.	• Extract-based essay (30 marks)
Unseen Poetry	
• One poem (15 marks) • Comparison with another linked poem (25 marks) The format of the question is the same as the Anthology Poetry question. This helps students with timing and approaches.	• One poem (24 marks) • Comparison of methods in another linked poem (8 marks) This is a potentially challenging final question.

OCR	Pearson
Anthology Poetry	
• Comparison of two printed poems (20 marks) • Analysis of one further chosen poem (20 marks) Students will be writing about 3 poems in total.	• Comparison of two poems, one printed (20 marks) Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response
Modern Prose or Drama	
• Extract from taught text linked to an unseen extract from a text of the same genre (20 marks) • Whole text essay (20 marks)	• Essay - one from a choice of two (40 marks)
19th Century Prose	
• Choice of extract-based essay OR essay (40 marks)	• Extract (20 marks) • Linked essay (20 marks)
Unseen Poetry	
No Unseen Poetry - the requirement for an unseen text is met with Unseen Prose.	• Comparison of two linked poems (20 marks) Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response.

NEW POETRY ANTHOLOGY FOR 2025

A new Eduqas GCSE English Literature poetry anthology will be available for first teaching in September 2025.

Our team of subject experts has curated a new collection of 15 poems that will expose learners to voices from a broad spectrum of cultural perspectives.

- 8 unique poems and 3 unique poets not offered by any other exam board
- A balanced representation of male and female poets
- Poems from 3 contemporary laureates and one Nobel Prize winner – Carol Ann Duffy, Jackie Kay, Seamus Heaney and Simon Armitage
- Poets from all 4 UK nations, as well as those with Jamaican, Pakistani and American heritages.

POETS UNIQUE TO EDUQAS

Claude McKay

Claude McKay was a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, a movement of African American culture in the early 20th century. Originally from Jamaica, McKay’s poetry often addresses themes of racial identity, oppression, and nostalgia for his homeland.

Zulfikar Ghose

Zulfikar Ghose is a Pakistani novelist, poet and essayist, best known for his work exploring identity, colonialism, and the complexities of cultural dislocation.

Eve L. Ewing

Eve L. Ewing is a contemporary American sociologist, poet, and essayist whose work often explores social justice, race, and the complexities of modern urban life. Ewing is also the author of the Ironheart comic book series for Marvel.

Learn more at www.eduqas.co.uk/anthology

Poem	Poet
The Schoolboy	William Blake
I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud	William Wordsworth
Sonnet 29	Elizabeth 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