

Subject Name	Examining Board	Level
GCSE English Language	AQA	2

Introduction

This specification is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are accessible to all students. Enabling all students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. Assessment will be through completion of two equally-balanced exam papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way, at the end of the course.

Summary of Content and Units Covered

The specification offers two equally-balanced papers, relating reading sources to the topic and theme of writing tasks. The reading sources act as stimulus for writing tasks, providing students with a clear route through each paper.

Each paper has a distinct identity to better support high quality provision and engaging teaching and learning. Paper 1, *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing*, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2, *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*, looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

Spoken language (previously speaking and listening) will emphasise the importance of the wider benefits that speaking and listening skills have for students. The endorsed unit will draw on good practice to suggest how engaging formative tasks can lead to a single summative assessment.

Assessment and weighting

Assessment takes place at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	+	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
<p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one literature fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> descriptive or narrative writing 		<p>Section A: Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text <p>Section B: Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing to present a viewpoint 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting responding to questions and feedback use of Standard English
<p>Assessment</p> <p>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <p>50% of GCSE</p>		<p>Assessment</p> <p>written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of GCSE 	<p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher set throughout course separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

What Can I do after completing the course?

AQA English courses provide an excellent foundation for students who:

- want to continue their studies at a higher level (including AS or A Level, Cambridge Pre-U and International Baccalaureate)
- need a language qualification to complement other subjects they are studying
- need a final qualification in English language.

Subject Name	Examining Board	Level
GCSE English Literature	AQA	2

Information about the Course

Summary of Content and Units Covered

The new specification has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability, while supporting you in developing creative and engaging lessons.

Assessment strategies support students' achievement in an un-tiered, closed book context through the use of extract-based questions in the assessment of the 19th-century novel and the Shakespeare plays.

Assessment and weighting

Assessment takes place at the end of the course.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	+	Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • The 19th-century novel 		<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern texts • Poetry • Unseen poetry
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE 		<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/specification-at-a-glance>

What Can I do after completing the course?

AQA English Literature provide an excellent preparation for AS and A-level English Literature, as well as giving students a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them for life.

Subject Name	Examining Board	Level
GCSE Mathematics	Edexcel	Level 1 / Level2

Information about the Course

Students of our Edexcel GCSE Mathematics specification will learn to use mathematical methods and concepts to make informed decisions and solve problems in real-life situations, recognising the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher.

Summary of Content and Units Covered

Tier	Topic area	Weighting
Foundation	Number	22 - 28%
	Algebra	17 - 23%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	22 - 28%
	Geometry and Measures	12 - 18%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%
Higher	Number	12 - 18%
	Algebra	27 - 33%
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	17 - 23%
	Geometry and Measures	17 - 23%
	Statistics & Probability	12 - 18%

http://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/mathematics/2015/specification-and-sample-assesment/9781446914298_GCSE_2015_L12_MATHS_WEBUPD.PDF

Assessment and weighting

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9 to 1) in Mathematics is a tiered qualification. There are two tiers:

- Foundation tier - grades 1 to 5 available
- Higher tier grades – 4 to 9 available (grade 3 allowed).

The assessment for each tier of entry consists of three externally-examined papers, all three must be from the same tier of entry. Students must complete all three papers in the same assessment series.

- The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier.
- All three papers must be at the same tier of entry and must be completed in the same assessment series.
- Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment and a calculator is allowed for Paper 2 and Paper 3.
- Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.
- Each paper has 80 marks.

What Can I do after completing the course?

Students can progress from this qualification to Level 3 qualifications in numerate disciplines, such as: Core L3 Mathematics, GCE A-Level Mathematics and GCE A-Level Further Mathematics, GCEs A-Levels in the sciences, GCE A-Level Geography, GCE A-Level Psychology, GCE A-Level Economics and other qualifications that require mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding.

Website Links for more Information

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/mathematics-2015.html>

Subject Name	Examining Board	Level
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (Double Award)	AQA	2
GCSE Chemistry	AQA	2
GCSE Biology	AQA	2
GCSE Physics	AQA	2

Information about the Course

The new GCSE science specification was new in September 2016. A single GCSE science is no longer offered due to changes to the new specification set out by the department of education. This means no core, additional or further additional science GCSE's. The new GCSE science will comprise of the new combined science: Trilogy which will count for two GCSE and the separate science route (Biology, Chemistry, and Physics) which count for three GCSE's. Both courses will run linear to each other as the subject content and practical's are the same on both courses so this gives the flexibility for students to move between combined and separate sciences during their studies. There will be no longer a coursework element to the course but students will be required to carry out a series of practical's. This will give students a richer practical experience and help develop their science investigation skills. In the new exams 15% of the marks will come from questions relating to practical's.

Summary of Content and Practical's

Both the combined and separate sciences cover the same content split up into the different specialism areas.

- *GCSE Biology/Combined*: covers cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.
- *GCSE Chemistry/Combined*: covers atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.
- *GCSE Physics/Combined*: covers forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

Practical's:

- GCSE combined science: Trilogy will be comprised of 16 required practical's
- GCSE Separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) each will be comprised of 8 required practical's.

Assessment and weighting

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

The course will comprised of six papers (two biology, two chemistry and two physics) there will be foundation and higher tiers with a weighting of 16.7% each. The duration of each exam will be 1 hour 15 minutes made up of 70 marks.

GCSE Separate Science: Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Each of the separate sciences will be comprised of two papers. There be foundation and higher tiers with a weighting of 50% each. The duration of each exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes made up of 100 marks.

What Can I do after completing the course?

Science GCSEs are typically a pre-requisite for further study in the sciences. Typical requirements are a grade BB in GCSE Combined: Trilogy or the relevant Individual science. In this respect, students are usually not disadvantaged by studying dual award in preference of diversifying their GCSEs.

Website Links for more Information

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>

Subject Name	Examining Board	Level
CGSE Computer Science	AQA	2

Information about the Course

This specification has been created to get students working with real-world programming and provides a good understanding of the fundamental principles of computing.

Summary of Content and Units Covered

1. Fundamentals of algorithms
2. Programming
3. Fundamentals of data representation
4. Computer systems
5. Fundamentals of computer networks
6. Fundamentals of cyber security
7. Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy
8. Aspects of software development

Assessments

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving

What's assessed

Computational thinking, problem solving, code tracing and applied computing as well as theoretical knowledge of computer science from subject content 1–4 above.

How it's assessed

Written exam set in practically based scenarios: 1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks
40% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.



Paper 2: Written assessment

What's assessed

Theoretical knowledge from subject content 3–7 above.

Paper 2: Written assessment

How it's assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

80 marks

40% of GCSE

Questions

A mix of multiple choice, short answer, longer answer and extended response questions assessing a student's theoretical knowledge.



Non-exam assessment

What's assessed

The non-exam assessment (NEA) assesses a student's ability to use the knowledge and skills gained through the course to solve a practical programming problem. Students will be expected to follow a systematic approach to problem solving, consistent with the skills described in Section 8 of the subject content above.

How it's assessed

Report: totalling 20 hours of work

80 marks

20% of GCSE

Tasks

The development of a computer program along with the computer programming code itself which has been designed, written and tested by a student to solve a problem. Students will produce an original report outlining this development.

What Can I do after completing the course?

Students will complete this course equipped with the logical and computational skills necessary to succeed at A-level, the workplace or beyond.

Website Links for more Information

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/computer-science-and-it/gcse/computer-science-8520>