

# EDEXCEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/english-language-2015.html>

The English Language GCSE tests the students' ability to analyse and interpret texts independently; it also tests their ability to write accurately for different audiences and purposes. All the students will sit the same two exams.

## PAPER ONE = 40% of GCSE

1 hour 45 minutes

Reading Section: Analysing an unseen 19<sup>th</sup> Century Extract

Writing Section: Imaginative Writing

## PAPER TWO = 60% of GCSE

2 hours 5 minutes

Reading Section: 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century

Non-Fiction Unseen Text Analysis

Writing Section: Transactional Writing

### KEY READING SKILLS

- Basic retrieval of information
- Analysing how language and structure are used to engage the reader
- Evaluating how successful a text is at achieving an effect
- Comparing similarities and differences between the language of two different texts

### KEY WRITING SKILLS

- Accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Range of interesting sentence structures
- Ambitious vocabulary choices
- Correct style, tone and level of formality for audience and purpose

There are lots of activities that students can be doing to revise and plenty of ways that you can support them in their efforts.

If time is short and they want a quick revision exercise, they don't have to complete a full question:

- Plan a response to an exam task. What could they put in each paragraph?
- Just write an opening paragraph. Does it capture the reader's attention?
- Look at a previous piece of work and redraft a weak section

There are plenty of 19<sup>th</sup> Century texts available for free on the internet e.g. *Dracula*, *A Christmas Carol*, *War of the Worlds*, *The Hound of the Baskervilles*.

Encourage them to look at a small section and analyse how the writer is using language

Encourage your child to read articles from broadsheet newspapers.

There are plenty of free, online editions that contain excellent comment/opinion articles.

Correct your child if they make grammatical errors when they write or speak.

Mistakes in speech often translate to mistakes in writing.

Reading will, without a doubt, improve their performance in English. Encourage them to read as widely as possible: novels, short stories, non-fiction, charity leaflets, newspapers, magazines.

Talk to your child about topical issues and encourage them to voice their opinions in a confident and formal style. A lot of writing tasks call for a high level of formality rather than a conversational style; your child must be able to express a clear viewpoint maturely.