

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

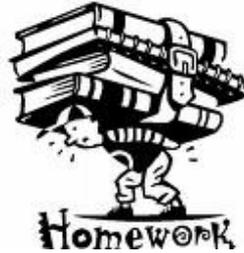
AQA

UNIT 1

Examination – Understanding and Producing Non-fiction Texts 40 % of total GCSE marks

Section A – Reading 20%

Section B – Writing 20% (2 tasks)



UNIT 2

Speaking and Listening 20% of total GCSE marks

The **three** best pieces done over the two years are selected to illustrate a variety of activities in 3 categories:

- Presenting
- Discussing and listening
- Role playing



UNIT 3

Controlled Assessment: Understanding Spoken and Written Texts and Writing Creatively 40% of total GCSE marks

- Extended Reading 15%
- Creative Writing (two tasks) 15%
- Spoken Language Study 10%

Ways in which you could help your son maximise his potential

- Ensure he knows exactly what he will be expected to do in the exam
- The writing tasks are often on topical issues, so discussing these as a family is helpful
- Ensuring your son has access to a good Sunday/daily newspaper would also be useful
- To improve his vocabulary, it is essential that your son reads more challenging fiction/non fiction on a regular basis
- Listen to any presentations before they are done before the class to iron out any problems
- Ensure that reading/learning homework is given as much attention as controlled assessment – it tends to be undervalued
- Check that his English folder is well organised
- If your son regularly uses the internet for research, ensure he fully understands the dangers of plagiarism
- All controlled assessment needs to be handwritten under controlled conditions, so being able to write quickly and legibly is an advantage.



MOST BOYS SIT HIGHER TIER.

AQA

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

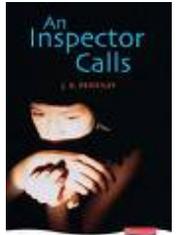
Drama, poetry and prose are all studied.

UNIT 1

Exploring Modern Texts

External Exam 40% of the total GCSE marks

- **Modern Drama - *An Inspector Calls*** J.B. Priestley 20%
- **Exploring Cultures - *Of Mice and Men*** John Steinbeck 20%



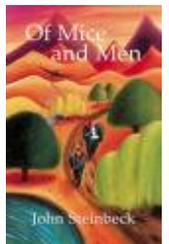
(As your son needs a clean text for the exam which the school provides, we ask parents to purchase the play and prose texts as it is a real advantage if the candidate can annotate his own text. Letters specifying the correct editions have been given out.)

UNIT 2

Poetry Across Time

External Exam 35% of total GCSE marks

- Selection of poems from *Moon on the Tides* anthology examined externally 23%
- Responding to an Unseen Poem 12%



UNIT 3

The Significance of Shakespeare and the Literary Heritage 25%

Controlled Assessment

Ways in which you could help your son maximise his potential

- Reading the texts so you can discuss them with him
- Ensuring he revises thoroughly for internal exams as this makes it easier when the real GCSE arrives
- Ensure he revises for tests because Literature requires very detailed knowledge
- Check his books are thoroughly annotated – especially if he has been absent
- Ensure enough time is devoted to coursework preparation – it is much harder to produce another Literature assignment at a later date when much of the text has been forgotten
- If he spends much time word processing, he may well need to practise writing quickly and legibly for examination purposes



MOST BOYS SIT HIGHER TIER.