

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE	EXAM BOARD AND CODE: AQA 8700
NUMBER OF PAPERS: 2 papers 1. Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing 2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	LENGTH OF PAPERS Both 1 hour 45 minutes
EQUIPMENT REQUIRED Black pen (and spare) and highlighters	WEBSITE LINK: AQA GCSE English Language Specification at a glance

Topics to be revised

Paper 1

Section A (1 hour): Reading information and ideas - response to one fiction text and answering questions about it

- Retrieving specific information about the source
- Identifying a writer's viewpoint and selecting specific information from texts
- Explaining, commenting on and analysing how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology
- Evaluate and judge texts critically, arguing for and against a statement about the text and supporting views with relevant textual references

Section B (45 minutes): Extended descriptive or narrative writing – a choice of one task from two (one will always be an image)

- Communicating clearly, effectively and imaginatively, adapting language and structure to produce engaging pieces of writing.
- Interpreting the task in a creative and imaginative way.

Paper 2

Section A (1 hour 45 minutes): Reading a pair of texts connected by topic . Texts will be from either 19th, 20th, or 21st century

- Identifying 4 true statements from a selection of 8
- Writing a summary of similarities or differences between the two texts
- Exploring how the writer of one of the texts has used language to describe one aspect of the extract
- A comparison of the different perspectives in the two pieces

Section B (45 minutes): Writing in a non-fiction format to argue, persuade, advise, or explain/inform

- Communicating clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences
- Organising information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts

Revision Tips

1. Read lots of media articles and non-fiction writing
2. Read a good biography!
3. Practise answering the different styles of questions – you can apply these questions to articles you find on websites or in the newspapers
4. Practise your writing under timed conditions. Forty-five minutes is a long time - you will need to practise generating and mind-mapping ideas for different tasks
5. Familiarise yourself with the conventions for different forms of writing: letters, news articles and speeches, for example.
6. Brush up on your spelling, punctuation and grammar
7. Memorise discourse markers in order to help you structure your creative writing

Useful websites:

AQA website for sample papers, examples of candidate responses and examiner comments

[AQA | English | GCSE | English Language](#)

GCSE Bitesize Links:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/writing/>

News websites including:

BBC News website <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/>

The Guardian website <http://www.theguardian.com/uk>

Daily Mail website <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/home/index.html>

Telegraph website <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/>

Mr Bruff videos – <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

Exam Hints

Section A (Reading):

- ☐ Read the question carefully so that you answer on the correct source and address the focus of the question
- ☐ Use short quotations from the sources
- ☐ Question 1s – make sure you read the questions and statements carefully here

Language and structure questions – back your ideas with short quotations from each text. Be clear and concise. Make a wide range of points and try to be perceptive and detailed in your analysis. Do not forget structure - how the text begins and ends is always worth considering. Are there any places where the writer suddenly changes direction? Always use the WHAT/HOW/WHY structure

- ☐ Follow the bullet-points and use textual references to back your ideas. Develop every point as far as you can and try to take into account the type of texts and how differences in audience and purpose might guide the writers' styles. Consider why a writer has written the text in the way they have.

Section B (Writing):

- ☐ Before you start make sure you know who you are writing for (audience), why you are writing (purpose) and what type of text you are writing (genre). Adapt your language accordingly. Use your relevant writing techniques. Always proof-read and check for accuracy. For the narrative/descriptive task, always interpret the task imaginatively.

- When the question says "In this writing you SHOULD..." That means you MUST cover those bullet-points to get the marks.