

Supporting your child: English Language & English Literature



2021-2022



What do you need to know about GCSE?

Both English GCSEs are **based entirely on examinations.**

These make up **100% of the English Language & English Literature qualifications.**

For that reason, it is **more important than ever** that students understand the requirements of the questions, and **master the content** before setting foot in the exam hall.



AQA English Language

- ▶ Two Papers
 - ▶ 50% each
 - ▶ 25% reading; 25% writing
 - ▶ The questions are the same every year; the only thing that changes are the extracts / articles

PAPER 1



Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

PAPER 2



Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

How it's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)



AQA English Literature

A different qualification to the English Language qualification
- an additional GCSE in its own right.

Two papers (Adjusted for 2022 Post-Covid)

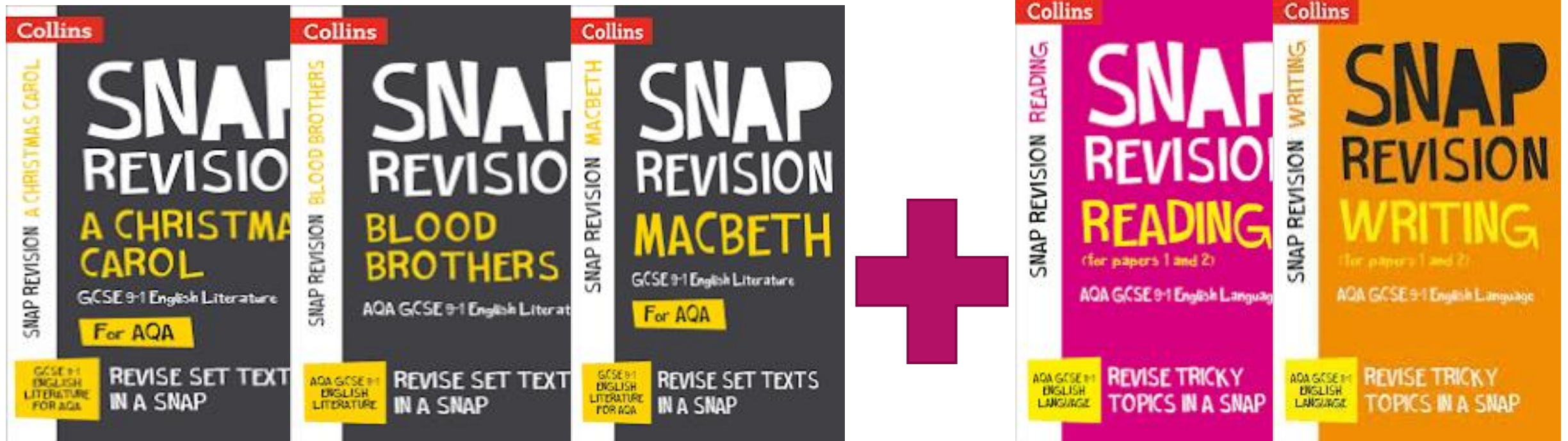
- ▶ **Paper 1** (46%) – A Christmas Carol / Blood Brothers (60 marks)
- ▶ **Paper 2** (54%) – Macbeth / Unseen Poetry (70 marks)



What might your support look like?

- ▶ Use what you already know, and ask your son to 'teach' you the content. What do you already know about the set texts for Literature? Ask his opinion about characters and themes – can he justify his ideas?
- ▶ Watch the many film versions / audiobooks available of the set texts and ask your son to identify what the changes are from the original.
- ▶ Ensure your son reads the literature texts regularly - every single night during the week is ideal. That might sound like a lot, but a small amount of reading every night will ensure he is more confident with the texts.
- ▶ **Quiz your son on key quotations** – can he explain what a quotation refers to and its context?
- ▶ Ask him about the meanings of words and phrases in his literature texts
- ▶ discuss news reports and articles / documentaries. The 40 mark question on Language Paper 2 is all about expressing a clear opinion.
- ▶ Ensure they have clear revision plan that they are sticking to.

Revision Guides – Full set £10



Along with: KNOWLEDGE ORGANISERS & ADDITIONAL REVISION BOOKLETS,
distributed throughout the year.

SENECA ONLINE LEARNING

<https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=English+Literature&Age+Group=GCSE&Exam+Board=AQA&Subject=English+Language>

- **Free**
- **Accessible on all platforms**
- **Instant feedback**
- **Use school email to set up account**



Online Resources for English & Literature

AQA Subject pages <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources>

Bitesize AQA Language pages <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

Bitesize AQA Literature pages <https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zxqncwx>

Mr Bruff (youtube) Language and Literature <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff/playlists>

A Christmas Carol online text <http://www.stormfax.com/1dickens.htm>

Macbeth online text <http://shakespeare.mit.edu/macbeth/full.html>

Blood Brothers online text

<http://arkelvinacademy.org/sites/default/files/Blood%20brothers%20%281%29.pdf>

www.senecalearning.com – brilliant, free revision site for Literature that deals with all of the set texts