

## Switching to OCR from Eduqas

### Introduction

We've developed a specification designed to be accessible and engaging at GCSE level, focussed on key English skills that students will use whatever path they choose to pursue. Through their study of and engagement with non-fiction and literary texts, students will develop critical reading skills which will also inform and improve their writing skills. So why choose OCR's GCSE English Language?

- There are two exams: one focusing on non-fiction texts and writing tasks, the second focusing on literary texts and creative writing tasks. Both exams put equal emphasis on reading and writing skills.
- Clear, well balanced exam papers that mirror each other in terms of format and weighting.
- The choice of writing tasks on each exam allows students to opt for a focus that best allows them to demonstrate their skills as writers.
- Students develop their creative and imaginative writing skills and the ability to write accurately for a range of purposes and audiences,
- The study of authentic and engaging unseen texts from the 19th to 21st centuries can be effectively integrated with the GCSE (9-1) English Literature course.
- A comprehensive range of creative, well researched resources to cover every aspect of the course, from candidate exemplars to specific skills development to handy revision and reference guides.

### How do I find out more?

- Visit our [GCSE English Language subject webpage](#) to access the specification, specimen assessment materials and a wide range of free support materials, from scheme of work planners to skills-based teacher guides, candidate exemplars and more.
- Join our conversation on the [OCR English Community](#) and [@ocr\\_english](#) to talk about and share good practice.

### Key differences

| OCR English Language  | Eduqas English Language   |
|---|---|
| <p>Paper 1 features one 19<sup>th</sup> century non-fiction text and one 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century non-fiction text. The 19<sup>th</sup> century text will always be non-fiction.</p> <p>Paper 2 features two 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century prose fiction or literary non-fiction texts.</p> | <p>Paper 1 features one 20<sup>th</sup> century literature prose text.</p> <p>Paper 2 features two non-fiction texts (one 19<sup>th</sup> century text and one 21<sup>st</sup> century text).</p> |
| <p>A total of 4 hours' assessment time: 2 hours for each paper.</p>   | <p>A total of 3.75 hours' assessment time: 1 hour 45 mins for Paper 1 and 2 hours for Paper 2.</p>  |
| <p>Each paper is worth 50% weighting overall.</p>   | <p>Paper 1 (literary prose) is worth 40% weighting overall and Paper 2 (non-fiction) is worth 60% weighting overall.</p>  |
| <p>Each paper features two unseen texts for balanced assessment, including a comparison question.</p>   | <p>Paper 1 features one unseen text and Paper 2 features two unseen texts. This means that skills in comparing texts are only weighted and assessed in one of two papers.</p>                     |
| <p>Language and structure are assessed together: no separate structure question.</p>  | <p>No specific reference to or guidance on structure.</p>   |
| <p>Choice of writing task in both papers; one task per paper.</p> <p>Writing tasks linked to reading themes.</p>  | <p>Choice of writing task in Paper 1 only; two compulsory writing tasks in Paper 2.</p> <p>Some writing tasks linked to reading themes.</p>   |
| <p>Writing tasks do not include any visual prompts.</p>   | <p>Writing tasks do not include any visual prompts.</p>   |

## Content

The key content and skills to be covered by all new GCSE (9-1) English Language specifications mean it's simple and straightforward to move to a different exam board, even if you're halfway through a course. If you're thinking of making a move from Eduqas to OCR for GCSE English, there are some key similarities in the teaching and assessment of the course:

### Key subject requirements

- Read fluently and critically, a wide range of texts from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as journalism or travel writing.

### Key skills

- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively, accurately and coherently for different audiences and purposes, using standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken standard English effectively.

**Assessment**

| OCR English Language  | EDUQAS English Language   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Paper 1: Communicating information and ideas</b></p> <p>50% of GCSE</p> <p>Written paper 2 hours</p> <p>80 marks</p> <p><b>Section A:</b></p> <p>Reading an unseen 19<sup>th</sup> century non-fiction text and a 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century non-fiction text.</p> <p>Responding to a range of question types (4 in total), including comparison between the two texts. Language and structure are assessed together: no separate structure question.</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <p>One transactional writing task from a choice of two, linked to theme of the reading texts in Section A.</p> | <p><b>Paper 1: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing</b></p> <p>40% of GCSE</p> <p>Written paper 1 hour 45 mins</p> <p>80 marks</p> <p><b>Section A:</b></p> <p>Reading an unseen 20<sup>th</sup> century literature prose text. Responding to a range of question types (5 in total). No specific reference to or guidance on structure.</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <p>One creative writing task from a choice of four, some of which are linked to theme of the reading text.</p>   |
| <p><b>Paper 2: Exploring effects and impact</b></p> <p>50% of GCSE</p> <p>Written paper 2 hours</p> <p>80 marks</p> <p><b>Section A:</b></p> <p>Reading two unseen 20<sup>th</sup> / 21<sup>st</sup> century literary prose texts. Responding to a range of question types (4 in total), including comparison between the two texts. Language and structure are assessed together: no separate structure question.</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <p>One imaginative writing task from a choice of two. Linked to theme of the reading texts in Section A.</p>  | <p><b>Paper 2: 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Non-fiction Reading and Transactional / Persuasive Writing</b></p> <p>60% of GCSE</p> <p>Written paper 2 hours</p> <p>80 marks</p> <p><b>Section A:</b></p> <p>Reading two unseen non-fiction texts, one 19<sup>th</sup> century and one 21<sup>st</sup> century. Responding to a range of question types (6 in total), including comparison between the two texts.</p> <p><b>Section B:</b></p> <p>Two compulsory transactional / persuasive writing tasks (no choice of questions) with some linking to theme of the reading texts in Section A.</p> |

### Want to switch to OCR?

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Your exams officer can complete an [intention to teach form](#) which enables us to provide appropriate support. When you're ready to enter your students, you just need to speak to your exams officer to make estimated entries then final entries by the specified deadline ahead of the examination session.

If you are not already an OCR-approved centre, please refer your exams officer to the [centre approval](#) section of our website.

### Next steps

1. Familiarise yourself with the specification, sample assessment materials and teaching resources on the [GCSE English Language](#) qualification page of the OCR website.
2. Get in touch if you'd like specific advice, guidance or support – email [english@ocr.org.uk](mailto:english@ocr.org.uk) or telephone 01223 553 998.
3. Get a login for our secure site, Interchange – allows you to access the latest past/practice papers and use our results analysis service, Active Results.
4. Sign up to receive [subject updates](#) by email.
5. Sign up to attend a [training event](#) or take part in webinars on specific topics running throughout the year and / or our Q&A drop-in webinar sessions every half term.
6. Attend one of our free regional [teacher network events](#).