

# **GCSE English, GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature**

## **Controlled Assessment Guidelines 2010 onwards**

### **Reading and Writing**

#### **Introduction**

Specifications for the new suite of WJEC GCSEs have been accredited by QCDA and DCELL. Teaching will start on two-year courses in September 2010, and one-year courses in September 2011 and the first award will be made in 2012.

Major changes have been made to the Controlled Assessment structures and requirements as a result of DCELLS and QCDA's reconsideration of the assessment structure in the light of the National Curriculum revision.

#### **What changes?**

- Three GCSE qualifications will be offered by all examination Boards. These are GCSE English (available only in England), GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature, available both in England and Wales.
- 'Controlled Assessment' will replace the term 'Coursework'.
- There will be time limitations upon the completion of each assignment.
- Students are allowed preparation time before the assessment session.
- All Controlled Assessment will be completed in controlled conditions either in the classroom or examination hall.
- Access to clean copies of literary texts will be permitted during the assessment sessions for Reading and English Literature.
- Students are not allowed to write draft responses. (This is a QCDA ruling for all Boards.)
- Students are allowed to take one A4 sheet of notes into the Reading and English Literature assessments. These notes must not contain a plan or a draft essay. If a student's folder is chosen for external moderation, the notes they have used must be included with the work.
- Work may be word-processed but spellchecker and grammar programs must be disabled (except in the case of the GCSE English Literature Linked Shakespeare/poetry work) and students must not be able to log onto their centre files via the Internet.

- It will not be possible for students to be assessed orally for any of the Controlled Assessment Reading and Literature assignments.
- For the Reading and Literature units the Board will provide both generic and exemplar tasks. Centres are at liberty to create their own tasks based on the exemplar tasks provided.
- All the Reading and Literature assignments must be based on texts listed in the GCSE English Literature Specification. Exceptions to this general rule are:
  - for the GCSE English Linked Shakespeare/poetry assignment, any Shakespeare play may be chosen;
  - students may write on any Shakespeare play in addition to the set text list for their GCSE English Language extended text essay;
  - in the GCSE English Literature linked Shakespeare/poetry assignment any Shakespeare text may be chosen except for the two listed in the set text list.
- In England, candidates' GCSE English Language results will only count towards league tables and centre statistics if they also attempt GCSE English Literature.
- All the GCSE courses are unitised. Assessment sessions will take place in June and January. See the Specifications for each subject for details regarding which Units are available in particular assessment sessions before January 2012. After this time, all units will be available in both January and June.

<p><b>What remains the same?</b></p>
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- Students will be allowed to word process their work although they will not be able to use spell/grammar check programs, dictionaries or thesauri except in the GCSE English Literature Controlled Assessment.
- The notional mark/grade relationship which has been used for WJEC coursework for a number of years where 12 marks equals a low C grade will be maintained for most assignments. Some assignments will be marked out of 40 and in this case 24 becomes the C grade mark. (See the *Notional Mark/grade relationship table* at the end of these notes.)
- The external moderation arrangements will remain very much as they are present.
- Teachers are still expected to make in-text and summative comments to support the assessment on each piece of work.

- Assessment criteria will be provided by the WJEC for all tasks. (See individual Specifications.)
- Adapted forms of the existing coversheets will be used.

### **Entry (England)**

Students may be entered for either **GCSE English** or **GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature**.

**They may not enter:**

GCSE English and GCSE English Literature  
GCSE English and GCSE English Language.

### **Entry (Wales)**

Students in Wales may not be entered for GCSE English. This is a DCELLS ruling. Students may be entered for GCSE English Language and/or GCSE English Literature. This means that in Wales centres are at liberty to enter students for GCSE English Language only. If Key Stage 4 students in maintained centres are only entered for GCSE English Language, they must study the range of texts required by the National Curriculum even though they will not be assessed on them.

### **Commonality**

When designing the new Specifications, QCDA requested Boards to make it easy for students at centres in England to transfer from a course consisting of GCSE English Language and English Literature to the GCSE English course. This will allow examination entry decisions to be made late in KS4. So that this is possible, the WJEC has built into the courses certain aspects which are common.

- There is some possible commonality in the Controlled Assessment Writing tasks (GCSE English and GCSE English Language).
- The linked Shakespeare/poetry task in the GCSE English Literature and GCSE English folder is common. Thus a student beginning a GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature course may move work already completed for the Literature folder in to the GCSE English one.
- GCSE English and GCSE English Language will have common External Assessment examination units.
- The GCSE English Literature set texts will be used in the GCSE English and GCSE English Language Reading sections of the Controlled Assessment.

## **GCSE English Controlled Assessment folder contents. (Centres in England only)**

### **Summary of requirements**

#### **Reading (Up to six hours work in total)**

- A linked assignment on a Shakespeare play and English, Irish or Welsh Literary Heritage poetry. Students have a free choice of Shakespeare play and must study a number of poems from the published list available on the secure website in April of each year. In the assignment students must look closely at least one poem from the WJEC Poetry Collection and refer to others. (4 hours: 20 marks)
- An assignment on a Different Cultures novel chosen from the English Literature set text list. (2 hours: 20 marks)

#### **Writing (Up to 2 hours of work in total)**

- One piece of first person writing. Topic to be chosen from a list provided by the WJEC. (20 marks)
- One piece of third person writing. Topic to be chosen from a list provided by the WJEC. (20 marks)

Students will have a range of tasks provided by the WJEC.

### **Notes**

#### **Reading (20% of the total mark)**

- The WJEC will provide generic tasks with examples of how those tasks could be structured in practice.
- Teachers may prepare the students for the tasks. The time allowed for this part of the process is separate from the period when the texts will be taught.
- Students are allowed to take one sheet of notes in to the assessment session. This sheet must not include a plan or draft essay. Students will, however, be allowed access to clean copies of the texts they are writing about.
- Students may word process their work but are not allowed access to spelling and grammar checking programs in this part of their controlled assessment folder. Also they must not be able to access their school work files from home via the internet.

- Exemplar material will be provided on the WJEC website with assessments and commentary.

### **Writing (20% of the total mark)**

- Teachers are allowed to prepare the students for this section of their folder.
- Students may word process their work but are not allowed access to spelling and grammar checking programs in this part of their controlled assessment folder.
- Tasks will be provided by the WJEC and changed on a regular basis (see the WJEC secure website in April of each year).

### **An example of folder content**

#### **Reading**

##### **Shakespeare and Literary Heritage Poetry**

- *Examine the way Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Rosaline in the early part of the play.*
- *Examine the way Wyatt presents his love for the unobtainable woman in Whoso List to Hunt. In your response refer to other poems.*
- *What is your response to the pieces of literature you have read? Make links between them.*

##### **Different Cultures Prose**

- *How does Meera Syal present experiences of racism in Meena's community?*

#### **Writing**

##### **Descriptive**

- *Describe the scene in busy supermarket.*

##### **Narrative/expressive**

- *A story entitled 'Revenge' or work on the title 'Memories'*

### **GCSE English Language (English and Welsh centres)**

### **Summary of requirement**

#### **Studying Written Language (Up to two hours in total)**

- One assignment on an extended literary text. Students may write about any Shakespeare play or a text chosen from the GCSE English Literature set text list.

### **Using Language (Up to 2 hours of work in total)**

- One piece of descriptive writing. Topic to be chosen from a list provided by the WJEC.
- One piece of narrative/expressive writing. Topic to be chosen from a list provided by the WJEC.

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### **Studying Written Language (15% of the total mark)**

- The WJEC will provide generic tasks with examples of how those tasks could be structured in practice. Tasks will concentrate on particular aspects of character or style.
- Centres must choose a Shakespeare play or a text from the English Literature set text list to work on. Within a centre, it is not necessary for all students to choose the same texts.
- Students may write on one of the texts studied for the GCSE English Controlled Assessment but the task must be distinctly different. (Tasks for the GCSE English Literature Controlled Assessment are thematic in focus. Tasks for the GCSE English Language Controlled Assessment will be concerned with character development or creation of atmosphere or style.)
- Teachers may prepare their students for the task. The preparation time is separate from the time spent teaching the text.
- QCDA has stated that students are not allowed to write drafts though they may take into the assessment session one sheet of notes. This must not contain a plan or draft.
- Students will be allowed up to two hours to complete the Studying Written Language section of the Controlled Assessment folder.
- Exemplar material will be provided on the WJEC website with assessments and commentary.
- The assignment must be written form. It will not be possible to assess the work orally.

### **Using Language (20% of the total mark)**

- Students will have to write two pieces for the Controlled Assessment folder. The first will be descriptive and the second narrative/expressive.
- Students are allowed up to two hours in total for the two pieces. It is likely that they will wish to spend rather longer on the narrative/expressive essay than on the descriptive piece.
- Teachers are allowed to prepare the students for this section of their folder.
- If the work is completed on a word processor, students are not allowed access to spelling and grammar checking programs in this part of their controlled assessment folder.
- Tasks will be provided by the WJEC and changed on a regular basis (see the Specifications).

### **An example of folder content**

#### **Studying Written language**

*How does Shakespeare present the character of Macbeth up to the point where he kills Duncan? Consider different interpretations of his character.*

#### **Writing**

##### **Descriptive**

- *Describe the scene in busy supermarket.*

##### **Narrative/expressive**

- *A Night to Remember.*

### **GCSE English Literature (English and Welsh centres)**

#### **Summary of requirements**

- One assignment linking English, Welsh or Irish Literary Heritage poetry and a Shakespeare play. (Up to four hours assessment time.)

#### **Notes**

- Poetry choices must be made from the free Poetry Resource Booklet published by Heinemann and provided by the WJEC.
- Any Shakespeare play may be chosen except for those listed in the GCSE English Literature set text list.

- Students may have clean copies of the texts they are working on plus one sheet of notes which must not include a plan or essay draft.
- The assignment may be used in the Reading section of the GCSE English Controlled Assessment folder. Students are not permitted to take GCSE English and GCSE English Literature but there may be occasions when for whatever reason a student needs to move from taking GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature to a GCSE English course.
- While comparison is not specifically required, showing the links between the two texts may result in some comparative work.
- Tasks and text choices are based on a number of common themes. The tasks will be replaced each year.
- Generic tasks stressing the thematic link between the texts will be provided by the WJEC. Exemplar tasks will be in three parts requiring the study of each text in turn before a final section where the student identifies the links and comments upon them.
- Students may be prepared for the task.
- Completed assignments should be up to about 2,000 words in length.

### An example of folder content

#### *Generic task*

*Many plays and poems are concerned with the relationship between men and women. Choose a relationship in a Shakespeare play you have studied and compare it with the way a similar relationship is presented in poetry.*

#### *Poetry selection*

*The Passionate Shepherd* Marlowe  
*The Sunne Rising* Donne  
*Cousin Kate* Christina Rossetti  
*Shall I compare thee* Shakespeare  
*Valentine* Carol Ann Duffy  
*A Frosty Night* Robert Graves  
*How do I love thee?* Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
*The Flea* Donne  
*Twice Shy* Heaney  
*Whoso List to Hunt* Wyatt

#### **Sample tasks:**

- *Examine the way Shakespeare presents the relationship between Romeo and Rosaline in the early part of the play.*
- *Examine the way Wyatt presents his love for the unobtainable woman in Whoso List to Hunt. In your response refer to other poems.*
- *What is your response to the pieces of literature you have read? Make links between them.*

### **General Guidance on the Controlled Assessment Units**

In choosing tasks, teachers should be aware of the ability of the candidates. Some tasks are more challenging than others and it would be wise to steer less able candidates towards those tasks in which they will be able to handle the material competently within the prescribed time limit.

The final assessment session may be arranged in a number of ways. Candidates will have a maximum of two hours to complete their two Writing assignments. The Reading/Literature assignments have a maximum of two hours per assignment except for the linked Shakespeare/poetry work which has a maximum of four hours since two texts are being studied. These time allowances may be broken into shorter sessions to fit into the lesson schedule. All work must be collected and kept secure within the centre at the end of each formal assessment session. Alternatively, teachers may wish to arrange an assessment session in the examination hall. The latter approach would have the advantage of ensuring that all the candidates complete their work under the same conditions. During the final assessment period, candidates are allowed to consult clean copies of the texts they are using and a single sheet of notes which must not contain a draft or plan. Once the assessment session is complete, students are not permitted to resubmit work.

After the completion of the assessment session, the work will be marked in the normal way, in line with the existing structures. (See Mark/grade table at the end of these notes.) Candidates may see their marked essays but it is important that the essays are kept securely in the teacher's possession to prevent any tampering with the work. Towards the end of the course, all candidates must complete and sign the appropriate Controlled Assessment coversheet(s).

Submission of the sample of folders to the moderator will follow the similar structures as have been in place for some years.

Students will be able to submit Controlled Assessment Units in both the January and June examination sessions from June 2012.

### **Reading and Literature tasks**

There is no prescribed time limit for teaching and learning when preparing the texts for the Reading and Literature tasks. However, QCDA have suggested that the preparation time for the assignment should be about 15 hours for a unit worth 20% of the final mark. This means, for example, that the GCSE English Controlled Assessment Reading assignments could be given about 15 hours of preparation time. During this period, the students can make suitable notes on their texts and plan out their approaches. They may also look at critical texts and other aids. How far the

students can consult other materials and sources is in the hands of the teachers within the centres. Similarly the Writing assignments could be given about 15 hours of preparation time though it is unlikely that candidates will need so long. Teachers may wish to give candidates guidance on approaches in the form of worksheets or scaffolding. If such aids are provided for the candidates, copies must be enclosed when the sample folders are sent to the moderator. Candidates are not permitted to write drafts of their essays. At this stage the candidates will be able to consult their notes and the texts and any other relevant material.

Given that the time limit is relatively short when compared with the amount of time allowed to candidates in the Legacy English Coursework structure, they will need to be focused on task from the onset of their writing. QCDA states that ‘Mark schemes must provide suitable credit for precision and succinctness of expression’. It is not expected that the essays produced will be of great length and they should provide good experience for the external assessment sessions. In the Reading section, candidates who spend time on extraneous aspects, like biographical details, will put themselves at a disadvantage.

The fact that the candidates are only allowed to take one sheet of notes into the assessment session should eliminate the opportunity for plagiarism. However, it is important that teachers are aware that it may still occur. If plagiarism is discovered after the assessment session, it will not be possible for the candidate to rewrite the work and no marks will be awarded.

## Writing

The Assessment Criteria for the Writing sections of the GCSE English and GCSE English Literature are essentially the same as for the existing GCSE Coursework folder. There will continue to be a split between the Content and Organisation mark (out of 12) and Sentence structure, punctuation and spelling marks (out of 6).

<b>Notional Mark/Grade relationships for all Controlled Assessment tasks.</b>			
	<b>20</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>U</b>	0-3	0-7	0-15
<b>G</b>	4-5	8-11	16-23
<b>F</b>	6-7	12-15	24-31
<b>E</b>	8-9	16-19	32-39
<b>D</b>	10-11	20-23	40-47
<b>C</b>	12-13	24-27	48-55
<b>B</b>	14-15	28-31	56-63
<b>A</b>	16-17	32-35	64-71
<b>A*</b>	18-20	36-40	72-80