

# GCSE English Language and English Literature Newsletter

## April 2022

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the Easter period and that you and your students are feeling prepared for the first full examination series for a number of years. We have some general and subject-specific updates and information that you may need as you begin this new term.

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### 1. Arrangements for summer 2022

We are aware that school and college closures have had an impact on learners over the last two years and that the disruption to teaching and learning has been challenging for those aiming to complete their qualifications in 2022.

In order to support teachers delivering our GCSE English qualifications in this challenging period, we released adaptations to our English Language and English Literature qualifications at the start of the academic year. These adaptations:

- streamline the content that will be subject to assessment in 2022
- reduce NEA requirements
- introduce optionality to GCSE English Literature assessments whereby centres choose which of the two examined units their learners sit this summer.

The specific details of the adaptations for [GCSE English Language](#) and [GCSE English Literature](#) are available on the relevant subject pages of the WJEC website. Please get in touch with our subject team if you have any questions about this information.

You will also find a series of helpful [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the website to help you and your learners understand the regulatory approach to the summer 2022 series and how to manage unforeseen incidents.

#### Results Day

Results for GCSE qualifications will be 25 August 2022, when results can be issued to learners and Principal and NEA reports will be available.

### 2. Resources

For each of our GCSE English qualifications, our teams have created many digital resources that will offer invaluable support in the last push to prepare learners for the examinations.

## English Language

A wide range of free digital resources has been developed to support the teaching and learning of WJEC GCSE English Language and these are available from our [Educational Resources](#) website.

- [Reading skills](#)
- [Word meaning](#)
- [Analysing text](#)
- [Implied meaning](#)
- [Summarising information](#)
- [Comparison](#)
- [Synthesis](#)
- [Editing](#)
- [Sequencing information](#)
- [Identifying and retrieving](#)
- [Technical accuracy](#)
- [Developing detail](#)
- [Exam writing tasks](#)
- [Structuring a response](#)
- [Proofreading](#)
- [Planning](#)

Our Digital Resources site also houses a collection of [Knowledge Organisers](#), which could be used for revision or as a starting point for creating your own knowledge organisers. Explore our series for GCSE English Language here.

We also have [Exam Walk-Throughs](#), aimed at learners, for each examined unit. These resources offer practical hints and tips on how to effectively approach questions in the examination paper. Using questions from past exam papers, the PowerPoint with audio help and audio script in the notes will walk learners through a mock examination paper, helping them revise and practise useful exam techniques.

## English Literature

Remember to access the wide range of free digital resources available on the [Digital Resources website](#) to support the delivery of our English qualifications.

For English Literature, there are plenty of new and engaging resources tailored to support you in delivering WJEC GCSE English Literature. These can be found on the [Resources](#) tab on the Website.

Under [Digital Resources](#), you will find: interactive **blended learning resources** on texts such as *Of Mice and Men*, *Heroes*, *An Inspector Calls*, *Blood Brothers* and *A Christmas Carol*, as well as poetry resources for the NEA; **Knowledge Organisers** for examination and NEA texts and for the unseen poetry comparison; and an **Exam Walk Through** for each of the English Literature examinations. These blended learning resources and knowledge organisers can be used independently by learners to support their learning.

[Sample Assessment Materials](#) are available within the Key Documents tab on the WJEC GCSE English Literature website. This document contains sample examination papers and detailed marking guidelines.

The [Teachers' Guide](#) also offers detailed advice on ways to successfully deliver the specification, from guidance in delivering the NEA and advice for examination preparation, to long-term course plans and mark schemes. We have a detailed [Resource Guide](#), which is an essential document for teachers as it curates the key support, guidance and resources offered by WJEC.

### Principal Examiners' reports

The Principal reports for GCSE [English Language](#) and [English Literature](#) provide feedback on the previous series are available on the website subject pages. Please do read them carefully as they provide helpful observations and commentary on candidates' performance across the examined series that could help prepare learners for this summer.

## 3. Power Up Campaign

### Summer 2022 – Power Up campaign

This year, for many learners, will be the first time they have had to sit external assessments, due to the ongoing impact of the pandemic. In light of this, WJEC has worked with Careers Wales, E-sgol, Qualifications Wales and Welsh Government to launch an online portal which hosts a wealth of resources, wellbeing tips, advice and guidance on all matters relating to the Summer 2022 assessments.



The portal can be accessed via the following link: [www.gov.wales/PowerUp](http://www.gov.wales/PowerUp), or join the conversation using the following hashtag #KeepWalesLearning

In addition to the new online portal, further materials and support will be provided across our social media channels which will include supportive messages, videos and revision hints and tips.

## 4. Professional Learning

During the 2022/23 academic year, our Professional Learning programme will be a mixture of face-to-face full day events with the same content delivered in a series of online webinars for those unable to attend the face-to-face training. Both options will be expert-led, interactive workshops, designed for you to get all the latest information on qualifications and feedback from the summer 2022 examinations. These will also provide an insight into teaching resources available, and a range of practical tips and strategies for the classroom.

We hope that there will be something in this offering that interests you and will remind you that we have a wider programme of professional learning for our other English qualifications; details and bookings will be available on the WJEC website later in the summer term.

## 5. Changes to the GCSE English Literature specifications

Centres are reminded that the option to study *Othello* and *Much Ado About Nothing* in Unit 2a has been removed.

The specification was amended in September 2019, following agreement by Qualifications Wales, and the changes apply from the 2022 assessments. For summer 2022 and onwards, the Unit 2a examination will not feature questions on either of these plays.

The removal of these texts from Unit 2a now means that the previous restriction of these plays featuring in the non-exam assessment (NEA) for Unit 3: Shakespeare and Welsh Writing in English is lifted. This means that learners with a particular interest in *Othello* or *Much Ado About Nothing* may choose one of these plays (or any other play by Shakespeare) for study in their NEA for assessment from 2022 onwards.

## 6. GCSE English Language Oracy

Due to the removal of subject adaptations from autumn 2022 onwards, candidates will once again have to complete Task 2: Responding and Interacting (group discussion) in addition to Task 1: Individual Researched Presentation for Unit 1: Oracy. The stimulus materials uploaded to the WJEC secure website on 6<sup>th</sup> June are for entry in autumn 2022, summer 2023 and autumn 2023.

If you do not have access to the secure website, please contact the examinations officer at your centre.

Centres are reminded that, where candidates are re-taking the non-examination assessment unit, candidates must complete new work for both tasks within that unit, so that all work presented for assessment is new.

## 7. GCSE English Literature NEA

The English Literature non-examination task for candidates whose work will be submitted in March 2024 is now available on the secure website. It can be accessed by navigating to Resources at the top of the screen – non-examination assessment tasks – fill in the dropdown tabs on the options screen – English Literature – WJEC – GCSE – Non-Examination Assessment Tasks – 2022.

There is a wide range of marked exemplar available on the secure website to help centres standardise their NEA marking. The exemplar has been marked and annotated by the Principal Moderator. It can be accessed by navigating to Resources – Subject specific support material inc CPD and exemplars – and then fill in the drop down boxes on the options screen.

If you do not have access to the secure website, please contact the examinations officer at your centre.

Centres are reminded that there are a range of resources to support the teaching and learning of the poems in the anthology. The resources can be accessed [here](#). Theatre Adhoc have kindly created readings from the GCSE poetry anthology which can be accessed [here](#).

## 8. Key dates

Key dates for the coming year have been posted on the WJEC website:

- [GCSE English Language](#)
- [GCSE English Literature](#)
- [Entry Level](#)

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