

GCSE English Language and Literature

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the Easter period and that you and your students are feeling prepared for the summer examination series. 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. Updates

As we work through the early stages of the new GCSE English Language and Literature qualifications, please do keep in touch with the subject team with your queries and observations, telling us what you need and what you like, so we can ensure that you are confident in your delivery and put our resources into making you feel confident and well-supported.

The Frequently Asked Questions document on the [subject page](#) has been updated following the Autumn term online Professional Learning events and can also be found on the subject page under 'Key Documents' > 'Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)'.

As a reminder, the first examination available to learners will be Unit 1 in summer 2026, with Units 1 and 4b available in November 2026. All examined units will be available in summer 2027 and for each series thereafter. As the GCSE English Language and Literature qualification is unitised, centres can enter for individual units in different series to best suit their delivery plans. The units can be taken separately and do not have to be sat during the same series, by all or part of the centre's cohort. Alternatively, all the units that make up a qualification could be sat in the same series; there is flexibility for centres to decide when is best to enter learners for each unit in a qualification, being mindful of the terminal assessment rule.

Please refer to the Technical Information section of the specification on pages 38-39 for details of resit rules and the terminal assessment rule.

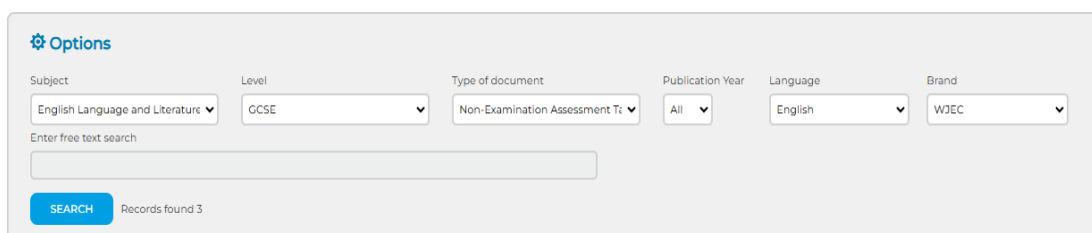
2. Have you considered becoming an examiner?

We are keen to appoint new examiners for WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature. Examining is an excellent way of learning more about the requirements of the examined units, thus supporting your learners and developing your skills. It also provides a useful additional income. For further details, please see the [Appointees section](#) of the website.

3. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

The first non-examined assessment units for GCSE English Language and Literature, Unit 2 (3750U2) and Unit 3 (3750U3) were available for first entry in Summer 2026. The deadline for mainstream centres was 24 March. FE colleges, sixth form centres and special schools must submit their samples to the WJEC moderator by 5 May 2026. Centres will receive a moderator report and unit grade for all learners entered in a series.

If you have not already started NEA work, the live briefs for the assessments can be found on the [WJEC Portal](#) by selecting 'Non-examination Assessment Tasks' and then the options from the drop-down menus as below – centres should not use the SAMs tasks as live assessments:



The screenshot shows the 'Options' section of the WJEC Portal search interface. It includes several dropdown menus for filtering results: Subject (English Language and Literature), Level (GCSE), Type of document (Non-Examination Assessment Tasks), Publication Year (All), Language (English), and Brand (WJEC). Below these is a text input field for 'Enter free text search' and a blue 'SEARCH' button. To the right of the button, it says 'Records found 3'.

We have added some additional resources to the NEA tab on the [subject page](#) to help you explore the different credit-worthy approaches to the NEA tasks. There are three voiced-over PowerPoint Presentations providing additional amplification for teachers as to the expectations for each unit's tasks:

 [GCSE Langlit NEA Amplification Unit 2](#)

 [GCSE Langlit NEA Amplification Unit 3](#)

 [GCSE Langlit NEA Amplification Unit 5](#)

Since the publication of the Sample Assessment Materials, the subject team have reviewed and revised the documentation to accompany the moderation sample to ease the administrative burden for teachers. Under the 'Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)' tab on the subject page, you will find updated Record Sheets for each unit. A completed unit [Record Sheet](#) is required for every learner regardless of whether they are selected for the moderation sample. Please ensure that these are retained securely.

[GCSE English Language and Literature Unit 2 Assessment Record Sheet](#)

[GCSE English Language and Literature Unit 3 Assessment Record Sheet](#)

[GCSE English Language and Literature Unit 5 Assessment Record Sheet](#)

A circular was sent to all centres in January 2026 informing centres about scribe deductions for NEAs. The updated version of the Record Assessment Sheet provides a space for the scribe deduction. Teachers must apply the deduction after the work is marked and before marks are entered onto WJEC's Internal Assessment Mark Input System (IAMIS). Further information on how to apply the tariff deductions for NEA and a table of deductions for each qualification are contained in the appendices to the circular and in this document: [GCSE English Language and Literature Scribe Deductions](#). If you have not seen this yet, please contact your Examinations Officer and ask for Circular 098.

4. Resources

To support you delivering GCSE English Language and Literature, we have developed a huge range of engaging resources tailored to all aspects of the qualification.

On our [Digital Resources](#) page, you will find our Blended Learning Resources and Knowledge Organisers, which are designed to complement traditional face-to-face teaching with an online learning pack that allows learners to work at their own pace. They can be used as revision tools, as part of catch-up, or for flipped learning.

The blended learning resources focus on each of the Unit 4a/b set texts and each of the themes covered by the texts included in the Poetry Anthology for use with Units 1 and 5, and in the Non-Fiction Anthology used for Units 3 and 6. There are also helpful materials to explore on Creative Writing and Non-Fiction Writing.

Our Knowledge Organisers can be accessed here:

[Unit 1: Poetry \(Context and Meaning\)](#)

[Unit 4a: Drama \(Motivations\)](#)

[Unit 4b: Drama \(Motivations\)](#)

[Unit 4b: Prose \(Motivations\)](#)

[Unit 6: Non-Fiction \(Connections\)](#)

The [Guidance for Teaching](#) document is designed to support teachers in the delivery of the whole WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature qualification by taking an holistic approach to the teaching of English.

It is not intended as a comprehensive manual, but as support for teachers to develop stimulating and exciting courses tailored to the needs and skills of their learners. The guide offers course plans, possible classroom activities and links to useful resources (including our own, freely available digital materials) to provide ideas for immersive and engaging lessons.

Guidance for Teaching spotlight: How Writers Create Meaning

This section of the Guidance for Teaching (pp. 55-121) explores the different ways that writers of literary and non-fiction texts create meaning in different ways.

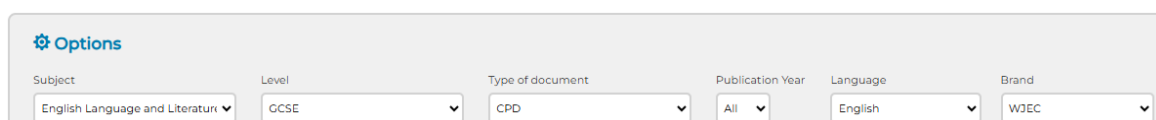
It outlines some broad ideas about literary and non-fiction written language, building on learners' existing knowledge and experience. We suggest possible approaches that could underpin interpretations – approaches that demonstrate how linguistic and literary techniques can be combined. The main aim is to engage learners with this process so that new linguistic terminology can be used effectively to support and develop their use of literary terms, which may well be more familiar to them.

The examples and comments can be used in the classroom as exercises, or the questions can be reframed and applied to the specific texts learners are studying. The key lies in recognising how linguistic and literary approaches can be applied to analyse meaning and evaluate impact.

5. Professional Learning

The materials from WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature: Preparing to Assess Unit 2, Unit 3 and Unit 5 online events hosted in the Autumn term are available on the [subject page](#), under 'Training' > 'On Demand Courses'. You will also find here walk-throughs and workshops that may be helpful to you.

Materials from previous Professional Learning events, including the Spring 2025 face-to-face events, are available on [WJEC Portal](#). To access them please login (see your Examinations Officer if you do not have a user account) and select 'Resources' > 'Subject-Specific Support Material inc CPD & Exemplars' and the options from the drop-down menu below:



The screenshot shows a filter bar with the title 'Options' and a gear icon. It contains six dropdown menus: 'Subject' (English Language and Literature), 'Level' (GCSE), 'Type of document' (CPD), 'Publication Year' (All), 'Language' (English), and 'Brand' (WJEC).

6. Key dates

Key dates for the 2025/26 year are available on the WJEC website:

[GCSE English Language and Literature](#)

7. Lit in Colour

Lit in Colour is a long-term social impact programme from Penguin Books which aims to support primary and secondary schools make the teaching and learning of English Literature more inclusive of authors of colour and to connect more young people to books by authors of colour to read for pleasure.

Canon in Colour is a new set of free teacher resources designed to support the teaching of classic 19th century texts, including *A Christmas Carol* and *The Sign of the Four*, through the lens of race and empire. Featuring expert video introductions and downloadable teacher guides, the resources help bring vital historical context into GCSE and A Level English teaching.

Lit in Colour also offer a range of resources on *Boys Don't Cry*, targeted at Year 10 and 11 learners. You can find these here: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/about/social-impact/lit-in-colour/teaching-resources/boys-dont-cry-ks4>

Explore the full set of resources via Lit in Colour: <https://www.penguin.co.uk/about/social-impact/lit-in-colour/teaching-resources/canon-in-colour>

Please note that these resources were created for the English Literature GCSE, rather than Welsh specifications. They will nonetheless be incredibly valuable in bringing texts to life in the classroom in an inclusive and celebratory way.

Please do feel free to reach out to the Lit in Colour team if you have any thoughts or questions.

Get in touch

If you have any queries...

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GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

We hope that you had a relaxing break over the Easter period and that you and your students are feeling prepared for the summer examination series. 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. Teaching and Learning Resources

English Literature

There are a wide range of 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: our interactive [Blended Learning Resources](#), our [Knowledge Organisers](#) and [Exam Walk Throughs](#) for each of the English Literature examinations.

English Language

Blended learning resources are also available for GCSE English Language on our Digital Resources site and contain interactive self-study content covering:

- [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.

2. Non-Examination Assessment (NEA)

English Language Unit 1 Oracy

For GCSE English Language Unit 1 Oracy, candidates are required to complete both *Task 1: Individual Research Presentation* and *Task 2: Responding and Interacting*. The stimulus materials for Task 2 can be accessed via Portal. The stimulus materials are for assessment in Summer 2026 and Autumn 2026.

The next set of stimulus materials, due to be uploaded on 1 September 2026, will be resit opportunities in November 2026 and Summer 2027. The resit opportunities will only be available to post-16 candidates who have previously cashed in the qualification prior to November 2026.

IAMIS opened on 10 March with the deadline for mark submissions/samples being the 24 March. Centres had to upload their learners' Individual Researched Presentations and Group Discussions via IAMIS, along with the [record keeping mark sheet](#) and any notes that were used during the assessments.

For learners wishing to re-sit the qualification after entering it in the November, a carry-forward of marks is available as outlined in the specification.

English Literature Unit 3 NEA

There will be no task for candidates entering for GCSE English Literature in 2027 as January 2027 will be a resit-only series for which candidates must carry forward NEA marks. The resit opportunities will only be available to post-16 candidates who have previously cashed-in the qualification.

There is a wide range of marked exemplar available on the secure Portal to help centres standardise 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 Portal, please contact the Examinations Officer at your centre.

IAMIS opened for the submission of NEA marks on 10 March 2026. The deadline for the sample to be with the moderator was 24 March 2026 for mainstream centres and 5 May 2026 for FE colleges, sixth form centres and special schools. Moderator details will be shown once the marks have been inputted.

Please be aware that there is also a [English Literature Unit 3 Coversheet](#) that centres must use when submitting NEA in 2026 which contains a statement about the use of artificial intelligence.

All candidates and teachers must use the updated NEA declaration forms and destroy any previous versions downloaded in previous series. The use of incorrect forms in 2026 may result in delays in processing entries.

3. Have you considered becoming an examiner?

We are keen to appoint new examiners. Examining is an excellent way of learning more about the requirements of the exam and thus supporting your students and developing your skills. It also provides a useful additional income. For further details, please see the [Appointees section](#) of the website.

4. Key dates

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

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

Get in touch

If you have any queries...

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