

# WJEC GCSE English Language and English Literature Newsletter

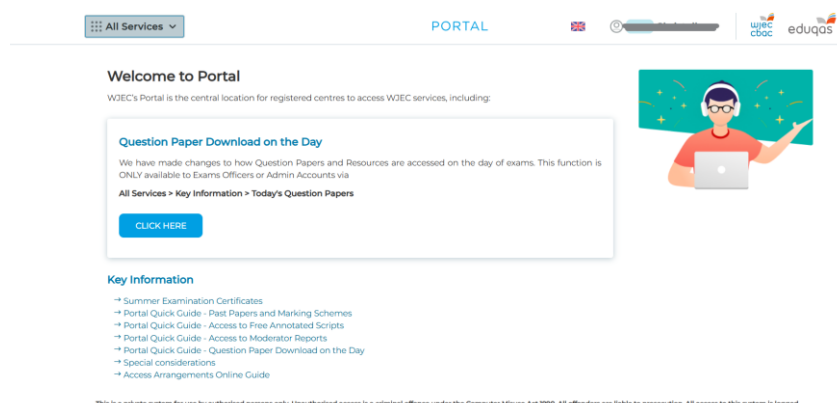
## January 2025

*Welcome back. We hope that you had a relaxing Christmas break and that you are ready for the new term.*

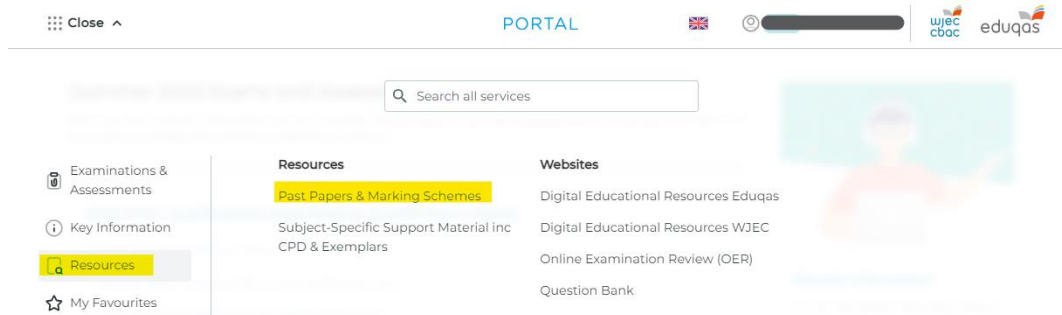
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### 1. November 2024 examinations

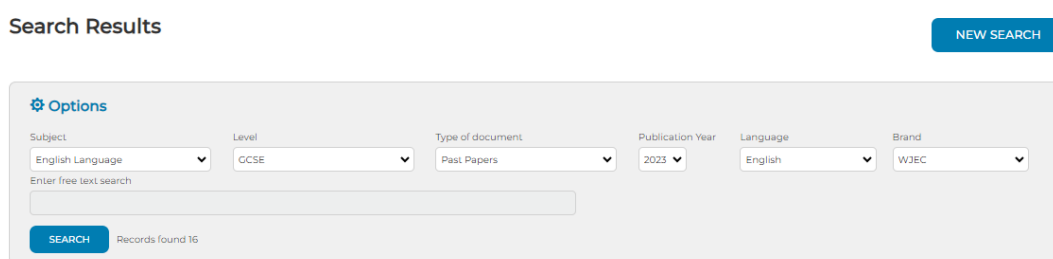
GCSE results for English Language will be published on the 9 January 2025. The papers and mark schemes will be available to view on Portal. If you do not have access, please contact your exams officer. To locate them, select 'Past Papers & Marking Schemes' from the 'Resources Menu' on the left-hand side of the screen:



The screenshot shows the WJEC Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'All Services' on the left, 'PORTAL' in the center, and logos for WJEC CBAC and eduqos on the right. Below the navigation bar, the main content area is titled 'Welcome to Portal' and includes a sub-header: 'WJEC's Portal is the central location for registered centres to access WJEC services, including:'. A prominent feature is a box titled 'Question Paper Download on the Day' with the text: 'We have made changes to how Question Papers and Resources are accessed on the day of exams. This function is ONLY available to Exams Officers or Admin Accounts via All Services > Key Information > Today's Question Papers'. A blue button labeled 'CLICK HERE' is positioned below this text. To the right of this box is an illustration of a person wearing headphones and pointing at a screen. Below the 'Question Paper Download on the Day' box is a 'Key Information' section with a list of links: 'Summer Examination Certificates', 'Portal Quick Guide - Past Papers and Marking Schemes', 'Portal Quick Guide - Access to Free Annotated Scripts', 'Portal Quick Guide - Access to Moderator Reports', 'Portal Quick Guide - Question Paper Download on the Day', 'Special considerations', and 'Access Arrangements Online Guide'. At the very bottom of the page, there is a small disclaimer: 'This is a private system for use by authorised persons only. Unauthorised access is a criminal offence under the Computer Misuse Act 1990. All offenders are liable to prosecution. All access to this system is logged'.



Then use the dropdown menus to choose the papers or marking schemes that you are looking for:



**13 February 2025** is the final date for receipt of applications for clerical checks, reviews of marking, reviews of moderation or other results enquiries. It is also the final date for the request of electronic copies of scripts for teaching and learning purposes. Please see our [website](#) for more details.

## 2. November 2024 Principal Examiners' report

In conjunction with item level data analysis, centres would find it useful to read the [Principal Examiners' Reports for English Language](#) in reviewing learners' examination performances. You are advised to read them carefully as they provide helpful observations and commentary on candidates' work this series.

## 3. WJEC GCSE English Literature January 2025 Exam Series

The date of the January 2025 series Unit 1 Foundation Tier and Higher Tier examination is the 8 January 2025 am. Results will be published on 6 March 2025.

## 4. Made-for-Wales GCSE Development

We would like to thank all of the teachers who gave their time to attend our Specification Briefings in November and December and for all the questions posed. We appreciate that this is a time of change for English teachers and hope that the additional resources, guidance and training over the next year will prepare you to confidently start delivering the new Made-for-Wales GCSEs in the autumn.

Our new [GCSE English Language and English Literature webpage](#) will house all the relevant information to support you deliver these qualifications. Currently on this page, you will find the specification, the anthology texts and recently published, the sample assessment materials for all units. We will be adding a comprehensive Guidance for Teaching document on 31 January 2025, and blended learning resources will continue to be published throughout the spring and summer terms.

The live assessment briefs for Units 2 and 3 will be released in April 2025 on the WJEC Portal. The tasks in the Sample Assessment Materials are an indication to teachers as to how the tasks will be presented – examples for teaching and learning purposes – and should not be used with learners as live assessments for submission for the new qualifications.

To give teachers across Wales opportunities to explore and discuss the qualifications further, there will be twelve face-to-face Preparing to Teach Professional Learning events in locations across the country during the Spring term. We are grateful to the colleagues in all the regions who have worked on co-ordinating school closures to ensure that all teachers receive this training. Please contact your Head of Centre for details.

Please ensure that you have subscribed to our [mailing list](#) if you would like to receive updates.

## 5. Non-examination assessment

### 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 2025 and Autumn 2025.

The next set of stimulus materials, due to be uploaded on 1 September 2025, will be for assessment in Summer 2026 and Autumn 2026, following the same pattern that was established when the specification was first taught in 2015.

IAMIS opens on 10 March with the deadline for mark submissions/samples being the 24 March. Centres will have 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. Please be aware that there is a new English Language Unit 1 record keeping mark sheet that contains a statement about the use of Artificial Intelligence that centres are expected to use for Summer 2024 onwards.

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

The English Literature non-examination task for candidates whose work will be submitted in March 2026 is now available on the secure website. It can be accessed by navigating to Resources on the left-hand side of the screen > Non-Examination Assessment Tasks; fill in the dropdown tabs on the options screen: English Literature - WJEC - GCSE - Non-Examination Assessment Tasks.

**There will be no task for 2027** as January 2027 will be a resit only series for which candidates will 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 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 Portal, please contact the examinations officer at your centre.

IAMIS opens for the submission of NEA marks on 10 March 2025. The deadline for the sample to be with the moderator is 24 March 2025 for mainstream centres and 5 May 2025 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 new [English Literature Unit 3 Coversheet](#) that centres must use when submitting NEA in 2025 as this now contains a statement about the use of Artificial Intelligence.

## 6. Teaching and Learning Resources

We are delighted to showcase new teaching and learning resources developed by WJEC to support teachers and learners.

There are a range of blended learning resources available for GCSE English Literature on our Digital Resources site that 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 by learners, as part of catch-up, or for flipped learning. These resources contain interactive self-study content covering:

- [Unit 1A Of Mice and Men](#)
- [Unit 1A To Kill a Mockingbird](#)
- [Unit 1B Unseen Poetry](#)
- [Unit 1B and Unit 3B Making Meaningful Comparisons](#)
- [Unit 2a Heroes](#)
- [Unit 2a An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Unit 2b Lord of the Flies](#)
- [Unit 2b A View from the Bridge](#)
- [Unit 2b Blood Brothers](#)

- [Unit 2b A Christmas Carol](#)
- [Unit 3a Romeo and Juliet](#)
- [Unit 3a Macbeth](#)
- [Developing critical analysis](#)
- [KS 3-4 Bridging Unit for English Language / Literature](#)
- [Exploring literary presentations](#)
- [Making productive use of contextual understanding](#)

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 Literature [here](#). 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.

[GCSE English Literature Exam Walk-Throughs](#)

[GCSE English Language Exam Walk-Throughs](#)

## 7. Professional Learning

### Key dates

Publication of Sample Assessment Materials: 19 December 2024

Publication of the Guidance for Teaching: 31 January 2025

### PL Events and Materials

PL Type	Aims	Format and Notes
Your Guide to the new specification module  <b>Available from end of September 2024</b>	<i>To support your understanding of the specification document.</i>	<i>This asynchronous module will be on the "training on demand" tab of your qualification page on the WJEC website. You will need to register to access a link to view.</i>
Parent / Options evening flyers  <b>Available from end of September 2024</b>	<i>To support you to provide information to parents and learners before start of study.</i>	This PDF will be published on your qualification's home page.
* Preparing to Teach (face-to-face)  <b>Available from 14/02/25 to 07/04/25</b>  <b>Registrations for the Pan Wales INSET days will be collected via your Head of centre. No registrations through WJEC's website.</b>	<i>To support teaching the new specification. There will be a focus on understanding the assessments, assessment objectives, content and teaching approaches based on the specification, sample assessment materials and guidance for teaching.</i>	<i>These days take place on designated regional INSET days – there are 12 days in this series held across Wales, including 2 Welsh medium days and 1 bilingual day.</i>  <i>These events will be led by WJEC Subject Advisors and our expert presenting teams.</i>
Exam and NEA Walk-throughs  <b>Available summer Term 2025</b>  <b>Access via the WJEC Portal secure website</b>	<i>To support you and your learners to understand the structure of question papers/NEA briefs, question types, assessment objectives and marking methods.</i>	<i>These pre-recorded PPT will initially be published on the WJEC Portal secure website only.</i>

\* Your designated regional WJEC face-to-face INSET date (Preparing to Teach) can be found here: [Made-for-Wales GCSEs \(wjec.co.uk\)](https://www.wjec.co.uk/made-for-wales-gcse)

The materials from previous CPD meetings are available on the training tab of both the WJEC English Language and English Literature subject pages on the WJEC website.

## 8. Have you considered becoming an Examiner?

As the entry for WJEC GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature is growing, 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.

## 9. Key dates

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

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

## Contact Us

**Kirsten Wilcock**  
Subject Officer  
GCSE English Literature

029 2240 4291  
[gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk](mailto:gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk)  
@WJEC\_English

**Guy Melhuish**  
Subject Officer  
GCSE English Language

029 2240 4289  
[gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk](mailto:gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk)  
@WJEC\_English

**Christelle Bazin**  
Subject Support Officer  
GCSE English Language  
/ GCSE English Literature

029 2240 4289/4291  
[gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk](mailto:gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk)  
@WJEC\_English