

GCSE



# WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature (Single and Double Award)

Approved by Qualifications Wales

## Specification

Teaching from 2025

For award from 2027

Version 4 - September 2025



This Qualifications Wales regulated qualification is not available to centres in England.

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Ready for the world.



This specification meets the requirements of the following regulatory documents published by Qualifications Wales:

- [Made for Wales GCSE Qualification Approval Criteria](#) which set out requirements for any new GCSE qualification Approved for first teaching from September 2025 and beyond.
- [Standard Conditions of Recognition](#) which contains the rules that all awarding bodies and their qualifications must meet when offering qualifications to learners in Wales.
- Approval Criteria for GCSE [English Language and Literature](#) which sets out the subject specific requirements for GCSE English Language and Literature qualifications from September 2025 and beyond.

# SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS

Version	Description	Page number
2	Clarification on assessment of Unit 3.	5
	Choice of stimuli has changed from annually to every two years.	35, 36
	Change to 4b which will be first available in November 2026.	7, 38
	Update to section 5.1: Technical information.	38, 39
3	Terminal rule change.	38, 39
4	Terminal rule reference removed from 'Post-16 Candidates' section for clarity.	39

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# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

## SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

### Common Units

#### Unit 1: Context and Meaning

Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes

**30% of the Single Award, 15% of the Double Award**

**60 marks**

Section A: questions requiring objective, short and restricted responses and one analytical comparative essay based on one poem from the WJEC Anthology and one unseen poem.

Section B: extended response question (one from a choice of two) – creative literary or non-fiction writing.

#### Unit 2: Belonging

Non-examination assessment: Duration 7 hours

**20% of the Single Award, 10% of the Double Award**

**60 marks**

The assessment will comprise two tasks.

Choice of tasks set by WJEC for Task A. Parameters for task-setting provided by WJEC for Task B. Both tasks marked by centres, moderated by WJEC.

Task A is a written essay based on study of a prose text selected from a comprehensive longlist of suggested texts. Learners will use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the whole text, exploring the theme of **Belonging** through the study of character(s) and setting.

Task B is an individually researched oral presentation linked to their understanding of **Belonging** developed through their literary study of the text for Task A. The presentation should be linked to a theme, issue, representation or relationship that interests them from the studied prose text.

#### Unit 3: Influence and Power

Non-examination assessment: Duration 5 hours 55 minutes

**20% of the Single Award, 10% of the Double Award**

**50 marks**

The assessment will comprise two tasks. WJEC will provide a choice from two selected themes as the discussion stimuli for Task A, with one prescribed text to be used in the discussion for each selection. A choice of stimulus for Task B set by WJEC. Both tasks marked by centres, moderated by WJEC.

Task A is a group discussion of 6-10 minutes based on the study of texts within a theme selected from WJEC's non-fiction anthology. Along with texts from the anthology, learners must discuss a text set by WJEC (one text will be set on each theme).

Task B is a creative non-fiction writing response informed by ideas and opinions gained from their reading of texts from Task A.

Single Award	Double Award
<p><b>Unit 4a (Single Award): Motivations</b> Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes <b>30% of the qualification</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>60 marks</b></p>	<p><b>Unit 4b (Double Award): Motivations</b> Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes <b>20% of the qualification</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>60 marks</b></p>
<p>Section A: questions requiring objective, short and restrictive responses and one analytical essay based on the text selected for study.</p> <p>Section B: extended response question (one from a choice of two), creative literary writing.</p>	<p>Section A: questions requiring objective, short and restrictive responses and one analytical essay based on the text selected for study.</p> <p>Section B: extended response question (one from a choice of two), creative literary writing.</p>
	<p><b>Unit 5: Continuity and Change</b> Non-examination assessment: Duration 8 hours <b>20% of the qualification</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>60 marks</b></p>
	<p>The assessment will comprise two tasks. Choice of tasks set by WJEC for Task A. Task and prescribed poems for discussion set by WJEC for Task B. Both tasks marked by centres, moderated by WJEC.</p> <p>Task A is an extended response based on the study of a whole play by Shakespeare.</p> <p>Task B is a paired discussion based on the study of one prescribed 1600-1900 poem from the WJEC Anthology and a further poem selected by the learner from the anthology or an additional self-selected poem.</p>
	<p><b>Unit 6: Connections</b> Written Examination Duration 1 hour 30 minutes <b>25% of the qualification</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>80 marks</b></p>
	<p>Section A: A mix of questions requiring objective, short and restrictive responses and longer analytical, comparative and evaluative responses exploring connections between the WJEC non-fiction anthology text(s) and one unseen text.</p> <p>Section B: extended response question (choice of one from two), non-fiction writing.</p>

GCSE English Language and Literature is a unitised, untiered qualification.

To achieve the Single Award, candidates must sit Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3 and 4a.

To achieve the Double Award, candidates must sit Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3, Unit 4b, Unit 5 and Unit 6.

Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3 will be available from summer 2026.

Unit 4b will be available for the first time in November 2026.

Unit 4a, Unit 5 and Unit 6 will be available for the first time in summer 2027.

First award of this qualification will be summer 2027.

Qualification Approval Numbers: C00/5086/9 (Single Award)

C00/4968/6 (Double Award)

# GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Aims

- appreciate how language connects us to the world around us through engagement with the spoken word and written texts from a range of times, places and cultures
- read and listen to a range of spoken and written texts, considering how language, register and style convey meaning
- understand the significance of purpose, audience, medium and context when communicating, expressing, understanding and responding to language
- express themselves in speaking and writing through clear, accurate, fluent and creative use of English
- develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the vocabulary, grammar and uses of the English language

These aims are set out in Qualifications Wales' Approval Criteria.

### 1.2 Curriculum for Wales

This GCSE English Language and Literature qualification is underpinned by the Curriculum for Wales framework and has been designed to ensure that learners can continue to make progress towards the four purposes whilst studying for this qualification. Central to this design are the [principles of progression](#), along with the [statements of what matters](#) and those [subject specific skills and concepts](#) outlined in the '[Designing your Curriculum](#)' section of the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experiences.

In developing this qualification, we have considered where there are opportunities to embed the cross-curricular themes and where there are opportunities for integral skills and cross-curricular skills to be developed. Appendix A provides a simple mapping, and information to support teachers will be provided in the Guidance for Teaching.

We have also considered where the qualification can generate opportunities for integrating the learning experiences noted on page 30; the Guidance for Teaching will include further information on integrating these learning experiences into delivery.

The GCSE English Language and Literature qualification supports the Curriculum for Wales by:

- supporting the statements of what matters<sup>1</sup>, giving learners the opportunity to:
  - develop their understanding, empathy and their ability to respond and to mediate effectively
  - interact, explore ideas, express viewpoints, knowledge and understanding and build relationships
  - experience and respond to a variety of diverse literature that gives them insight into the culture, people and history of Wales as well as the wider world
  - spark their imagination and creativity.
  
- supporting the principles of progression<sup>2</sup> by giving learners the opportunity to:
  - build on their linguistic skills
  - grow holistically in their understanding and purposeful use of languages, literacy and communication
  - apply their understanding of linguistic concepts
  - adapt and manipulate language to communicate effectively to a range of different audiences
  - develop receptive, interpretive and expressive language skills
  - transfer existing knowledge and skills into new contexts including the social and cultural aspects of language.
  
- supporting the key considerations for language development and selecting literature<sup>3</sup> by giving learners the opportunity to:
  - experience relevant, engaging, authentic and challenging stimuli to inspire purposeful speaking and writing
  - experience a wealth of literature.

### 1.3 Prior learning and progression

Although there is no specific requirement for prior learning, the qualification is designed primarily for learners between the ages of 14 and 16 and builds on the conceptual understanding learners have developed through their learning from ages 3 – 14.

The qualification allows learners to develop a strong foundation of knowledge, skills and understanding which supports progression to post-16 study and prepares learners for life, learning and work. The qualification provides a suitable foundation for the study of English at either AS or A level. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

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<sup>1</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Statements of what matters - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Principles of progression - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Languages, Literacy and Communication: Designing your curriculum - Hwb \(gov.wales\)](#)

## 1.4 Guided learning hours

GCSE English Language and Literacy (Single Award) has been designed to be delivered within 120 – 140 guided learning hours.

GCSE English Language and Literacy (Double Award) has been designed to be delivered within 240 – 280 guided learning hours.

Both qualifications have been primarily designed as a 2-year programme for learners in years 10 and 11.

## 1.5 Use of language

As our understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion evolves, so must our language. Updated terminology better reflects individual identities and fosters respect and accuracy. Language used should be specific as possible. Staying informed and adaptable is crucial, as inclusive language promotes dignity and equity. Recognising that language will continue to evolve, we will remain open to further amendments to ensure it accurately represents and supports all individuals. WJEC will inform centres of any amendments and the most up to date version of the specification will always be on the website.

## 1.6 Equality and fair access

The specification may be followed by any learner, irrespective of gender, ethnic, religious or cultural background. It has been designed to avoid, where possible, features that could, without justification, make it more difficult for a learner to access and achieve because they have a particular protected characteristic.

The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

Access arrangements and reasonable adjustments are made for eligible learners to enable them to access the assessments and demonstrate their knowledge and skills without changing the demands of the assessment.

Information on access arrangements and reasonable adjustments is found in the following document from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ): Access Arrangements, Reasonable Adjustments: General and Vocational Qualifications. This document is available on the JCQ website (<http://www.jcq.org.uk>).

We will be following the principles set out in this document and, as a consequence of provision for reasonable adjustments, very few learners will encounter a complete barrier to any part of the assessment.

## 2 SUBJECT CONTENT

### How to read the amplification

The amplification provided in the right-hand column uses the following stems:

- 'Learners should understand' is used when learners are required to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding rather than apply their knowledge, understanding and skills
- 'Learners should be able to' is used when learners need to apply their knowledge and understanding and demonstrate application of skills
- 'Learners will be required to' is used to show the specific requirements of individual units.

### Integration of Language and Literature

This qualification is an integration of English Language and Literature. As such, it is important to be aware of the following assumptions:

- the term 'literature' is used in its widest sense, to denote all written material regardless of its purpose. It is not intended to infer imaginative works of exclusively poetry, prose or drama.
- learners are required to analyse the literature they study using both linguistic and literary approaches. This makes clear the intention that learners engage with the techniques, devices and features present in literature in order to explore the impact they have and/or how they create meaning, whether those techniques, devices or features be linguistic or literary.
- as part of their learning, it is expected that learners will consider aspects of the English language, using literature as a vehicle for this. Consideration of vocabulary, grammar and syntax are required throughout the course, not only in regard to learners' own writing, but also in regard to the literature selected for study. Knowledge and understanding of the English language will be assessed in examined units; application of skills in the English language will be assessed in all units.

## Unit 1 (Single and Double Award)

### Context and meaning

Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes  
Marked by WJEC  
60 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- understand and respond critically to a range of poetry
- write with clarity, adapting for purpose and effect, and using appropriate linguistic features and techniques.

Unit 1 aims to encourage learners to engage with the concept of **Context and Meaning**. Learners are encouraged to draw on their understanding of how meaning is created through the study of poetry and apply this to their own writing. This includes a detailed understanding of the functions of the English language in the creation of poetic meaning. It is an opportunity for learners to understand how language and context influence and impact meaning in literature in order to shape their own writing, using language effectively to present their own ideas. This prepares learners to become more confident in adapting their writing for purpose and effect, making them more effective communicators. The study of **Context and Meaning** will help learners to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world by understanding how context affects individuals and communities, and by enhancing their capacity for critical thinking.

In their study of the WJEC Anthology used in this unit, learners will have opportunities to explore and respond to different contexts, and to consider content and materials that reflect the diversity of our society and the wider world. They will be encouraged to develop creative responses, using their understanding of the writer's craft and writing conventions to inform the construction of their own texts.

## Areas of content

## Unit 1: Context and Meaning

Learners will be required to:

- 1.1 study all poems in the WJEC Poetry Anthology indicated for Unit 1 study, supplemented by additional poems from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries
- 1.2 respond to linked poems, one that has been studied (from the anthology) and one unseen poem
- 1.3 produce writing that may be creative literary writing or non-fiction writing.

Content	Amplification
<p>1.1 Study all poems in the WJEC Poetry Anthology indicated for Unit 1 study, supplemented by a wider range of additional poems from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries</p>	<p>Poems for Unit 1 in the <b>WJEC Poetry Anthology</b> will be written by living authors. The anthology provides two poems for study for Unit 1 under each of the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Relationships</li> <li>● Identity</li> <li>● Conflict</li> <li>● The Natural World</li> <li>● Children and Parents</li> </ul> <p>Centres are required to supplement the poems in the anthology with a wider self-selected range of poems from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century, which cover different forms. These must include sonnet, elegy, ballad and blank verse.</p> <p>To support the concept of <b>Context and Meaning</b>, learners must engage with the different contexts that have influenced the studied poetry. Examples of the contexts learners could engage with are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● socio-historical contexts</li> <li>● cultural influences</li> <li>● authorial context</li> <li>● literary context</li> <li>● period</li> <li>● status/power.</li> </ul> <p>Alongside these, learners could also consider their own context and its influence on interpretation and response.</p>
<p>1.2 Respond to linked poems, one that has been studied (from the anthology) and one unseen poem.</p>	<p>Through the study of poetry, learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and how these have an impact on the reader</li> <li>● how different contexts may inform different viewpoints and perspectives in poetry</li> <li>● how relevant contextual factors shape meaning.</li> </ul> <p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● understand and respond critically to the studied poetry by exploring poetic forms, styles and devices, themes and different perspectives</li> <li>● analyse and critically evaluate texts and viewpoints</li> <li>● select and evaluate relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>comprehend ideas and information, retrieve relevant detail and mediate, through paraphrasing, summarising and interpreting main points</li> <li>make comparisons and explain links within and between written texts, synthesising and summarising information, ideas and themes as appropriate</li> <li>make inferences and deductions, including identifying viewpoints and purposes</li> <li>communicate information, understanding, ideas, opinions and feelings clearly and accurately</li> <li>understand and use linguistic and literary terminology</li> <li>identify, understand and comment on aspects of language such as vocabulary, parts of speech, idiom, grammar and syntax</li> <li>structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>
<p><b>1.3</b> Produce writing that may be creative literary writing or non-fiction writing.</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>demonstrate their understanding of how to write for a specific context, considering the effect of audience, purpose, genre, narrative voice and relevant contextual influences on their writing</li> <li>create clear meaning through their language choices and their use of linguistic and literary features</li> <li>communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using linguistic and literary techniques, forms and vocabulary that engage the reader</li> <li>adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences, using a range of strategies and literary and linguistic techniques to engage and influence readers</li> <li>organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax, and accurate punctuation and spelling.</li> </ul> <p>Through studying poetry, learners will encounter different voices from different places and times which could stimulate their own creative responses even in a different genre.</p> <p>A choice of writing tasks between creative literary writing and creative non-fiction writing will be offered in the examination. This may be in any of the forms listed, and for a variety of purposes.</p> <p>Writing tasks could take the form of, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>newspaper/magazine articles</li> <li>reports</li> <li>brochures</li> <li>instructional guides</li> <li>webpages</li> <li>blogs</li> <li>leaflets</li> <li>factsheets</li> </ul>

- (auto)biographies
- expert advice
- speeches
- talks
- reviews
- audio guides
- editorial
- letters
- emails
- short stories
- extracts from a novel
- descriptions
- monologues
- accounts.

## Unit 2 (Single and Double Award)

### Belonging

Non-examination assessment: approximately 7 hours  
Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC  
60 marks

#### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- develop oracy skills
- show understanding of and respond to narrative fictional prose in writing
- conduct research towards an individual oral presentation linked to the studied prose.

Unit 2 encourages learners to engage with the concept of **Belonging**, with a focus on investigating the themes, issues and representations around *cynefin*, community and citizenship in the selected narrative fiction text. Study of **Belonging** will help learners to become ethical, well-informed citizens who are knowledgeable about both their own culture, community, society and world, and those of others, now and in the past.

#### Areas of content

Unit 2 Belonging	
Learners will be required to:	
<p>2.1 study a prose text selected from a comprehensive longlist of suggested texts</p> <p>2.2 respond to the chosen prose text in writing</p> <p>2.3 develop oracy skills through an individually researched oral presentation linked to a theme, issue, representation or relationship focused on the concept of <b>Belonging</b> that interests them from the studied prose text.</p>	
Content	Amplification
2.1 Study a full prose text selected from a comprehensive longlist of suggested texts	<p>Learners may explore the theme of <b>Belonging</b> through the study of character(s), setting, plot, voice etc.</p> <p>Within this broad focus, and depending on the text chosen for study, there will be opportunities for learners to explore the following cross-cutting themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Wales and Global Contexts</li> </ul> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the social, cultural and historical contexts of the text may inform different viewpoints and perspectives</li> <li>• how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and how these have an impact on the reader.</li> </ul>

<p>2.2 Respond to the chosen prose text in writing</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the whole text, and to engage and influence readers</li> <li>● understand and respond critically to the chosen text, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> <li>● communicate information, understanding, ideas, opinions and feelings clearly and accurately</li> <li>● develop extended responses over a period of time, through planning, drafting, evaluating and refining work.</li> </ul>
<p>2.3 Develop oracy skills through an individually researched oral presentation linked to a theme, issue, representation or relationship focused on the concept of <b>Belonging</b> that interests them from the studied prose text.</p>	<p>Through oracy, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● research, plan and present orally</li> <li>● show understanding of a selected topic (theme, issue, representation, relationship)</li> <li>● consider and comment on the reliability and validity of sources and evidence</li> <li>● communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the listener</li> <li>● adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts, and audiences</li> <li>● organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>● use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax.</li> </ul>

## Unit 3 (Single and Double Award)

### Influence and Power

Non-examination assessment: approximately 5 hours 55 minutes

Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC

50 marks

#### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- read, understand and respond critically to a range of non-fiction texts
- express themselves in speaking and writing through clear, accurate, fluent and creative use of English
- consider the use of language, structure and form in their own writing
- show evidence of planning and organising own work.

Unit 3 encourages learners to engage with the **Influence and Power** of writers and speakers through the cross-cutting themes of the non-fiction anthology. Learners will gain understanding of and develop empathy towards different attitudes, cultures and beliefs to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world. Opportunities for speaking and writing will inspire learners to become creative contributors and critical thinkers as they respond to a range of stimulating texts. The linguistic and literary study of the texts will support learners to speak and respond effectively in the group discussion and to create a non-fiction writing task inspired by the anthology and overarching concept of **Influence and Power**.

#### Areas of content

##### Unit 3: Influence and Power

Learners will be required to:

- 3.1 study a prescribed anthology of non-fiction writing provided by WJEC
- 3.2 discuss in a group how **Influence and Power** is presented in at least two linked texts, one of which must be from the anthology and one of which will be prescribed by WJEC.
- 3.3 produce non-fiction writing inspired by their study of texts from the anthology and the overarching concept of **Influence and Power**.

Content	Amplification
<p>3.1 Study a range of texts from a selected theme from the anthology of non-fiction writing provided by WJEC, supplemented by a WJEC prescribed text, which support the overarching concept of <b>Influence and Power</b></p>	<p><b>The WJEC Non-fiction Anthology (Units 3 and 6)</b> is organised into the five cross-cutting themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Work and Sustainability</li> <li>• Wales and Global Contexts.</li> </ul> <p>Under each theme there are two non-continuous texts and four continuous texts, one of which is a transcript of a spoken text. Texts in the anthology for this unit reflect <b>Influence and Power</b> in real-life contexts.</p>

	<p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the key ideas for the theme(s) studied</li> <li>the use of linguistic and literary devices in non-fiction writing and how language choice, form, techniques, grammatical and structural features, register and style convey meaning in a range of spoken and written texts</li> <li>how the different contexts of what they read or hear inform interpretation of <b>Influence and Power</b>.</li> </ul>
<p>3.2 Discuss in a group how <b>Influence and Power</b> is presented in at least two linked texts, one of which must be from the anthology and one of which will be prescribed by WJEC</p>	<p>Through oracy, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engage constructively with different texts, ideas and viewpoints</li> <li>identify and explore the effects of <b>Influence and Power</b> in the texts selected for discussion</li> <li>communicate clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the listener</li> <li>express reasoned opinions and ideas, drawing conclusions and supporting them with relevant evidence</li> <li>adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>select and evaluate relevant points to illustrate and support their ideas</li> <li>discuss how context has informed their choices and viewpoints.</li> </ul>
<p>3.3 Produce non-fiction writing inspired by their study of texts from the anthology and the overarching concept of <b>Influence and Power</b></p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>communicate clearly, effectively, and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the reader</li> <li>adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>express reasoned opinions and ideas, drawing conclusions and supporting them with relevant evidence</li> <li>use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax</li> <li>understand and use linguistic and literary terminology</li> <li>develop extended responses over a period of time, through planning, drafting, evaluating and refining work</li> <li>explain how they have used language, structure and form to impact the reader</li> <li>select and evaluate relevant points to illustrate and support their ideas</li> <li>structure responses to support coherence and cohesion</li> <li>discuss how context has informed their choices and viewpoints.</li> </ul>

## Unit 4a (Single Award Only)

### Motivations

Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes  
Marked by WJEC  
60 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- consider the (re)presentation of characters, relationships and communities
- understand written texts in their social, cultural and historical contexts, and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives
- understand their own motivations as writers in creating literary texts.

Unit 4a encourages learners to engage with the idea of the **Motivations** of writers and characters in the drama text selected for study, exploring the reasons for attitudes, behaviours and/or beliefs. **Motivations** could be linked to:

- characters' thoughts and behaviours
- cultural/social representation
- the writer's attitudes to social, cultural and historical views and stereotypes
- contextual ideas
- exploring different viewpoints.

Engaging with **Motivations** in literature and with language analysis encourages learners to become more ambitious and capable in their approach to understanding texts and in expressing themselves through language. This includes a detailed understanding of the functions of the English language in the creation of meaning. These experiences foster an appreciation of a writer's craft, and develop learners' own creative skills. Learners acquire a more nuanced understanding of different viewpoints and the skills needed to interpret, evaluate and respond to differing perspectives. This, along with contextual knowledge to support their understanding of the selected text, will allow learners to develop their ability to demonstrate empathy, developing their own emotional intelligence and awareness by considering the impact of the **Motivations** behind behaviour, speech and actions. The production of creative writing in this unit will engage learners as readers, narrators and creators of their own work, inspired by literature. Learners will generate their own creative ideas, plan and organise work. This unit will support learners to become unbiased and critically aware interpreters of what they hear, read and see through enhanced understanding of their own and other people's experiences, beliefs and cultures.

## Areas of content

**Unit 4a: Motivations (Single Award)**

Learners will be required to:

- 4.1 study a drama text from a prescribed list
- 4.2 respond to the selected text in writing, demonstrating skills such as retrieval, summary, paraphrasing and analysing language choices
- 4.3 produce creative literary writing.

Content	Amplification
<p>4.1 Study a drama text from the following list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> (Shakespeare)</li> <li>• <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (Wilde)</li> <li>• <i>Refugee Boy: playscript</i> (Zephaniah / Sissay)</li> <li>• <i>Pygmalion</i> (Shaw)</li> <li>• <i>An Inspector Calls</i> (Priestley)</li> </ul>	<p>Depending on the text chosen for study, there will be opportunities for learners to explore local, national and international contexts and the cross-cutting themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Work related experiences.</li> </ul> <p>Through their study of the selected drama text, learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the Motivations of the writer and of the characters they create are affected by the period</li> <li>• different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations as presented in their selected text</li> <li>• written texts and speech in their different contexts, and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives. Examples of contexts that learners could engage with include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• socio-historical contexts</li> <li>• cultural influences</li> <li>• authorial context</li> <li>• literary context</li> <li>• period</li> <li>• status/power.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Alongside these, learners could also consider their own context and its influence on interpretation and response.</p> <p>Learners should understand the associated techniques, structures and conventions of drama texts (for example setting, staging, stage directions, characterisation, language use and their contexts) as a means to support and enhance their appreciation of the selected drama text.</p>

<p>4.2 Respond to the selected text in writing, demonstrating skills such as retrieval, summary, paraphrasing and analysing language choices</p>	<p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● understand and respond critically to written texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> <li>● explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and speech and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer/listener</li> <li>● make inferences and deductions, including identifying viewpoints and purposes</li> <li>● analyse and critically evaluate texts and viewpoints, including how these present information, ideas or themes through language choice, form, techniques, and grammatical and structural features</li> <li>● express reasoned opinions and ideas, drawing conclusions and supporting them with relevant evidence</li> <li>● understand and use linguistic and literary terminology</li> <li>● develop inference skills, and the ability to identify viewpoints and critically evaluate how these are presented through the writer's language choice, form, techniques, and grammatical and structural features</li> <li>● identify, understand and comment on aspects of language such as vocabulary, parts of speech, idiom, grammar and syntax</li> <li>● structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>
<p>4.3 Produce creative literary writing</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use language effectively to present their own original ideas and explore the motivations behind behaviour, speech and actions of characters</li> <li>● communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the reader/viewer/listener</li> <li>● adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>● organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>● use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax, and accurate punctuation and spelling</li> <li>● demonstrate clear meaning through language choices and the use of linguistic and literary features.</li> <li>● structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>

## Unit 4b (Double Award Only)

### Motivations

Written Examination: Duration 1 hour 30 minutes  
Marked by WJEC  
60 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- consider the (re)presentation of characters, relationships and communities
- understand written texts in their social, cultural and historical contexts, and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives
- understand their own motivations as writers in creating literary texts.

Unit 4b encourages learners to engage with the idea of the **Motivations** of writers and characters in the drama or prose text selected for study, exploring the reasons for attitudes, behaviours and/or beliefs. **Motivations** could be linked to:

- characters' thoughts and behaviours
- cultural/social representation
- the writer's attitudes to social, cultural and historical views and stereotypes
- contextual ideas
- exploring different viewpoints.

Engaging with **Motivations** in literature and with language analysis encourages learners to become more ambitious and capable in their approach to understanding texts and in expressing themselves through language. This includes a detailed understanding of the functions of the English language in the creation of meaning. These experiences foster an appreciation of a writer's craft, and develop learners' own creative skills. Learners acquire a more nuanced understanding of different viewpoints and the skills needed to interpret, evaluate and respond to differing perspectives. This, along with contextual knowledge to support their understanding of the selected text, will allow learners to develop their ability to demonstrate empathy, developing their own emotional intelligence and awareness by considering the impact of the **Motivations** behind behaviour, speech and actions. The production of creative writing in this unit will engage learners as readers, narrators and creators of their own work, inspired by literature. Learners will generate their own creative ideas, plan and organise work. This unit will support learners to become unbiased and critically aware interpreters of what they hear, read and through enhanced understanding of their own and other people's experiences, beliefs and cultures.

## Areas of content

## Unit 4b: Motivations (Double Award)

Learners will be required to:

- 4.1 study **either** a drama text **or** a prose text from a prescribed list
- 4.2 respond to the selected text in writing, demonstrating skills such as retrieval, summary, paraphrasing and analysing language choices
- 4.3 produce creative literary writing.

Content	Amplification
<p>4.1 Study <b>either</b> a drama text <b>or</b> a prose text from the following lists:</p> <p>Drama:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Leave Taking</i> (Pinnock)</li> <li>• <i>An Inspector Calls</i> (Priestley)</li> <li>• <i>DNA</i> (Kelly)</li> </ul> <p>Prose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>My Name Is Leon</i> (de Waal)</li> <li>• <i>Pigeon</i> (Conran)</li> <li>• <i>Animal Farm</i> (Orwell)</li> </ul>	<p>Depending on the text chosen for study, there will be opportunities for learners to explore local, national and international contexts and the cross-cutting themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Work related experiences.</li> </ul> <p>Through their study of the selected drama text, learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how the <b>Motivations</b> of the writer and of the characters they create are affected by the period</li> <li>• different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations as presented in their selected text</li> <li>• written texts and speech in their different contexts, and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives. Examples of contexts that learners could engage with include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• socio-historical contexts</li> <li>• cultural influences</li> <li>• authorial context</li> <li>• literary context</li> <li>• period</li> <li>• status/power.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Alongside these, learners could also consider their own context and its influence on interpretation and response.</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <p><b>EITHER</b></p> <p>the associated techniques, structures and conventions of drama texts (for example, setting, staging, stage directions, characterisation, language use and their contexts)</p> <p><b>OR</b></p> <p>the associated techniques, structures and conventions of prose texts (for example, narrative approach, style, characterisation and language use).</p> <p>These should be understood as a means to support and enhance learners' appreciation of the selected text.</p>

<p>4.2 Respond to the selected text in writing, demonstrating skills such as retrieval, summary, paraphrasing and analysing language choices</p>	<p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● understand and respond critically to written texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> <li>● explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and speech and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer/listener</li> <li>● make inferences and deductions, including identifying viewpoints and purposes</li> <li>● analyse and critically evaluate texts and viewpoints, including how these present information, ideas or themes through language choice, form, techniques, and grammatical and structural features</li> <li>● express reasoned opinions and ideas, drawing conclusions and supporting them with relevant evidence</li> <li>● understand and use linguistic and literary terminology</li> <li>● develop inference skills, and the ability to identify viewpoints and critically evaluate how these are presented through the writer's language choice, form, techniques, and grammatical and structural features</li> <li>● identify, understand and comment on aspects of language such as vocabulary, parts of speech, idiom, grammar and syntax</li> <li>● structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>
<p>4.3 Produce creative literary writing</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● use language effectively to present their own original ideas and explore the motivations behind behaviour, speech and actions of characters</li> <li>● communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the reader/viewer/listener</li> <li>● adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>● organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>● use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax, and accurate punctuation and spelling</li> <li>● demonstrate clear meaning through language choices and the use of linguistic and literary features.</li> <li>● structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>

## Unit 5 (Double Award Only)

### Continuity and change

Non-examination assessment: approximately 8 hours  
Marked by the centre, moderated by WJEC  
60 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- consider language use through time
- explore how literature reflects ideas and attitudes over time
- consider the relevance of themes, characters and/or plot to their own time and lives.

Unit 5 encourages learners to engage with the concept of **Continuity and Change** by considering how attitudes and ideas, as well as the language used, in texts have changed since the time of writing to the present day. Learners will explore these through a whole play by Shakespeare, and through the study of pre-twentieth century poetry. The study of these ideas will support learners to become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world by developing understanding and empathy and enhancing their capacity for critical thinking.

### Areas of content

#### Unit 5: Continuity and Change

Learners will be required to:

- 5.1 study a Shakespeare play (any of their choosing)
- 5.2 study poem(s) from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, which must include poems covering the period 1600-1900
- 5.3 respond to the whole Shakespeare play in writing
- 5.4 develop oracy through paired discussion focusing on how themes, perspectives, events or experiences are presented in poetry from different periods of time.

Content	Amplification
<p>5.1 Study a Shakespeare play (any of their choosing)</p> <p>5.2 Study poems from the WJEC Poetry Anthology, which must include poems covering the period 1600-1900 indicated for Unit 5 study.</p>	<p>In this unit, <b>Continuity and Change</b> should be considered through a broad range of relevant and engaging content from a range of times, places and cultures. Learners may watch live or recorded performances of texts to enhance understanding (although these should not act as a substitute for reading the text).</p> <p>Learners should understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how a broad range of contexts inform the interpretation of texts. Examples of contexts learners could engage with are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• socio-historical contexts</li> <li>• cultural influences</li> <li>• authorial context</li> <li>• literary context</li> <li>• period</li> <li>• status / power.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Alongside these, learners could also consider their own context and its influence on interpretation and response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how language and style convey meaning across time.</li> </ul>

	<p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• make connections, including identifying and commenting on similarities and differences</li> <li>• make inferences and deductions, including identifying viewpoints and purposes</li> <li>• express reasoned opinions and ideas, drawing conclusions and supporting them with relevant evidence.</li> </ul>
<p>5.3 Respond to the whole Shakespeare play in writing</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understand and respond critically to the text, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> <li>• explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer.</li> <li>• understand written texts and speech in their different contexts and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives</li> <li>• use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the whole Shakespeare text</li> <li>• use a range of strategies and literary and linguistic techniques, structuring responses to support coherence and cohesion</li> <li>• show how themes/issues, relationships, perspectives, attitudes and/or language use may or may not have changed since the time of writing of their chosen Shakespeare play</li> <li>• plan and organise their work.</li> </ul>
<p>5.4 Develop oracy through paired discussion focusing on the <b>Continuity and Change</b> in how themes, perspectives, events or experiences are presented in poetry from different periods of time.</p>	<p>Through oracy, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary, and techniques to engage the listener</li> <li>• adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>• organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>• use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, to engage and influence the listener</li> <li>• explore changes or continuity in ideas or attitudes over time by considering the contexts in which the poems selected for study were written, the differences and or similarities in style, and the presentation of ideas and attitudes</li> <li>• communicate information, understanding, ideas, opinions and feelings clearly and accurately</li> <li>• select and adapt language, sentence structure, grammar and syntax to suit the paired discussion</li> <li>• use a range of strategies and literary and linguistic techniques to engage and influence the listener</li> <li>• structure responses to support coherence and cohesion</li> <li>• prepare and plan for their participation in the discussion.</li> </ul>

## Unit 6 (Double Award Only)

### Connections

Written Examination: Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes  
Marked by WJEC  
80 marks

### Overview of unit

The purpose of this unit is for learners to:

- make connections between texts
- make connections relating to time, place, space, setting, language and/ or relationships.

Learners will explore **Connections** and links between texts they read, hear and produce in this unit. **Connections** may be social, relational, temporal and/or linguistic, and may also be between the genre, meaning and purpose of texts. This includes a detailed understanding of the functions of the English language in the creation of meaning. By exploring **Connections** between language that is read, heard, seen and produced, learners are encouraged to become more ambitious and capable in their understanding of texts and in expressing themselves through language. These experiences encourage learners to develop understanding of different viewpoints and perspectives, and to become effective communicators.

### Areas of content

#### Unit 6: Connections

Learners will be required to:

- 6.1 study a prescribed anthology of non-fiction writing provided by WJEC
- 6.2 explore connections between the Non-Fiction Anthology text(s) and an unseen text
- 6.3 produce non-fiction writing.

Content	Amplification
6.1 Study a prescribed anthology of non-fiction writing provided by WJEC	<p><b>The WJEC Non-fiction Anthology (Units 3 and 6)</b> is organised into the five cross-cutting themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationships</li> <li>• Human Rights</li> <li>• Diversity</li> <li>• Work and Sustainability</li> <li>• Wales and Global Contexts.</li> </ul> <p>Under each theme there are two non-continuous texts and four continuous texts, one of which is a transcript of a spoken text. Texts in the anthology for this unit reflect <b>Connections</b> in real-life contexts. Learners should study all texts in the anthology during their course of study.</p>

<p>6.2 Explore <b>Connections</b> between the Non-Fiction Anthology text(s) and an unseen text</p>	<p>Learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● understand and respond critically to a range of written texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas</li> <li>● comprehend ideas and information, retrieving relevant detail and mediating, through paraphrasing, summarising, synthesising and interpreting main points</li> <li>● make inferences and deductions, including identifying viewpoints and purposes</li> <li>● make comparisons and explain links within and between both written texts and spoken communication, synthesising and summarising information, ideas and themes as appropriate</li> <li>● understand and use linguistic and literary terminology</li> <li>● explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and speech and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer/listener</li> <li>● identify, understand and comment on aspects of language such as vocabulary, parts of speech, idiom, grammar and syntax</li> <li>● structure responses to support coherence and cohesion.</li> </ul>
<p>6.3 Produce non-fiction writing.</p>	<p>Through their own writing, learners should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary and techniques to engage the reader</li> <li>● adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences</li> <li>● organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence</li> <li>● select and adapt language, sentence structure, grammar and syntax to suit a range of audiences, purposes and effects, including formal and informal contexts</li> <li>● use appropriate grammar and syntax, and accurate punctuation and spelling</li> <li>● draw on their understanding of the texts studied in the anthology and apply this to their own writing</li> <li>● transfer their knowledge and skills, using language effectively to present their own ideas.</li> </ul> <p>Writing tasks could take the form of, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● newspaper/magazine articles</li> <li>● reports</li> <li>● brochures</li> <li>● instructional guides</li> <li>● webpages</li> <li>● blogs</li> <li>● leaflets</li> <li>● factsheets</li> <li>● (auto)biographies</li> <li>● expert advice</li> <li>● speeches</li> </ul>

- talks
- reviews
- audio guides
- editorials
- letters
- emails
- accounts
- monologues.

## Opportunities for integration of learning experiences

GCSE English Language and Literature (Single and Double Award) generates opportunities for learners to consider the following learning experiences to further develop their understanding and appreciation of the subject content:

- explore and respond to local and wider Welsh contexts
- study texts to fire the imagination and inspire creativity
- consider content and materials that reflect the diversity of our society and the wider world
- listen to and read variations in language (register, accents, dialect, etc.)
- use understanding of the writer's craft and genre convention to inform the construction of their own spoken and written texts
- develop creative responses in a range of written and spoken contexts
- make use of digital technology when completing the qualification
- where appropriate, watch live or recorded performances or adaptations of texts studied and other relevant audio-visual material
- develop cross-curricular skills and integral skills.
- appreciate how the English language, and literature written in English, have developed over time (for the Double Award)

The Guidance for Teaching will include further information on the opportunities provided by the qualification for teachers/centres to integrate these learning experiences into delivery.

For opportunities to develop cross-cutting themes, cross-curricular skills and integral skills see Appendix A.

## 3 ASSESSMENT

The Assessment Pack will include all detailed information relating to assessment.

### 3.1 Assessment Objectives and Weightings

Below are the assessment objectives for this specification. Learners must:

#### **AO1**

Understanding and response

- i. Understand and respond critically to a range of written texts and speech, selecting and evaluating relevant points to illustrate and support interpretations and develop ideas.
- ii. Make comparisons and explain links within and between both written texts and spoken communication, synthesising and summarising information, ideas and themes as appropriate.
- iii. Explain how language, structure and form contribute to the presentation of information, ideas and themes in written texts and speech and how these have an impact on the reader/viewer/listener.
- iv. Understand written texts and speech in their social, cultural and historical contexts and how these may inform different viewpoints and perspectives.

#### **AO2**

Communication and expression

- i. Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using forms, vocabulary and techniques to engage the reader/viewer/listener.
- ii. Adapt communication by selecting register, vocabulary and techniques appropriate to different contexts and audiences.
- iii. Organise communication using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and overall coherence.
- iv. Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with appropriate grammar and syntax, and, in written communication, accurate punctuation and spelling.

The tables below show the weighting of each assessment objective for each unit and for the qualification as a whole.

### Single Award

	AO1	AO2	Total
Unit 1	21%	9%	30%
Unit 2	10%	10%	20%
Unit 3	4%	16%	20%
Unit 4a	15%	15%	30%
Unit 4b	-	-	
Unit 5	-	-	
Unit 6	-	-	
Overall weighting	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Double Award

	AO1	AO2	Total
Unit 1	10.5%	4.5%	15%
Unit 2	5%	5%	10%
Unit 3	2%	8%	10%
Unit 4a	-	-	-
Unit 4b	10%	10%	20%
Unit 5	10%	10%	20%
Unit 6	12.5%	12.5%	25%
Overall weighting	<b>50%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## 3.2 Overview of arrangements for non-examination assessment

Non-examination assessment units in this qualification will be marked by the centre and moderated by WJEC. Tasks and associated stimuli will be released during the first week of April for first assessment the following academic year and the same question will remain for two years. Centres are required to ensure they use the correct question for each series. Assessments must be submitted digitally – written assessments may be handwritten and scanned, or completed digitally; oracy assessments must be recorded audio-visually and uploaded.

### Unit 2

Both tasks in this unit are based on the concept of **Belonging** developing learners' self-identity and empathy, fostering inclusivity, and helping them understand the impact of community and acceptance. This unit aims for learners to engage with this concept through the study of a prose text as well as through an oral presentation.

The assessment contributes 20% (Single Award) / 10% (Double Award) to the overall qualification and will take approximately 7 hours to complete.

#### Task A

Learners will use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the whole text, exploring the theme of **Belonging** through the study of character(s) and setting. The suggested length of response is 750-1000 words.

WJEC will publish a choice of stimuli for this task based on aspects of **Belonging** that are relevant to the novels on the longlist. These will be published in the first week of April for use in the following academic year and will be changed every two years.

Task A will assess AO1 and AO2.

#### Task B

Task B requires learners to complete an individually researched oral presentation linked to their understanding of **Belonging** developed through their literary study for Task A. The presentation should be linked to a theme, issue, representation or relationship inspired by the studied prose text that interests them.

Learners will develop oracy skills and conduct research towards an individual oral presentation inspired by the studied prose text.

Task B will assess mainly AO2, but also the learner's ability to conduct research to inform understanding of a topic and consider and comment on the reliability and validity of sources and evidence (AO1).

Parameters for task-setting will be set by WJEC, along with examples of tasks that may be used or modified by centres. Teachers should ensure that tasks are suitable for learners to demonstrate the required knowledge, skills and understanding.

### Unit 3

All tasks in this unit are based on the concept of **Influence and Power** as outlined in the specification.

Developing an understanding of how a reader or listener can be influenced encourages learners to explore and challenge ideas presented to them and to raise healthy, questioning debate. In preparation for Task A, learners will be able to understand the role of power, and explore how writers and speakers attempt to influence their audiences. Learners will be able to acknowledge how others have shaped their views.

This unit aims to engage learners to engage with this concept through the teaching and learning of selected texts on a range of themes. Learners will be expected to identify and explore the effects of **Influence and Power** in what they have read, and use these strategies in their own communication.

Learners will be expected to use a range of linguistic and literary approaches in their responses to all tasks.

The assessment contributes 20% (Single Award) / 10% (Double Award) to the overall qualification and will take approximately 5 hours 55 minutes to complete.

#### Task A

Task A requires learners to participate in a group discussion of 6-10 minutes. For the purposes of this task, a group is defined as 3-4 learners.

WJEC will publish a choice from two selected themes as the discussion stimuli for this task, along with one prescribed text to be used in the discussion for each selection. Centres must ensure the following are used:

- one text from the anthology prescribed by WJEC for the chosen theme
- one further text from the anthology must be used
- at least one of the texts referenced in the discussion must be non-continuous.

Learners may include a third text from within or outside the anthology. This could be the non-continuous text.

The stimuli and prescribed texts will be published in the first week of April for first assessment the following academic year and will change every two years.

The discussion will require learners to provide evidence for their response to the stimulus, and/or their argument/counterargument through reference to the texts.

Task A will assess AO2 and AO1.

#### Task B

Task B requires learners to complete a piece of creative non-fiction writing. The suggested length is 400-500 words. The work must be a written text designed to be spoken (e.g. a speech, talk, vlog, podcast, advice piece, oral guidance). A choice of tasks will be set by WJEC – these will be published in the first week of April for first assessment the following academic year and will be changed every two years.

Using a range of linguistic and literary approaches, learners will apply their knowledge and understanding of the ways of influencing a reader or listener and/or of demonstrating power in a writer/speaker/audience relationship, using ideas, opinions and techniques which they have explored in their reading of texts from the anthology.

Task B will assess AO2 only.

### Unit 5

Both tasks in this unit are based on the concept of **Continuity and Change** as outlined in the specification. The unit aims to engage learners with this concept through the study of a whole play by William Shakespeare and a range of poems, one of which must be from the 1600-1900 period. The texts selected should allow learners to identify and explore examples of continuity and change, to make connections, and to consider attitudes, contextual factors, and audience/reader responses. Learners will be expected to select and use a range of linguistic and literary approaches to communicate their responses to the texts.

The assessment contributes 20% to the Double Award qualification and will take approximately 8 hours to complete.

#### Task A

Task A requires learners to complete an extended response with a suggested length of 1000 -1500 words, based on the study of a whole play by Shakespeare chosen by the centre.

A choice of tasks based on different aspects of **Continuity and Change** will be published by WJEC in the first week of April for assessment for the following academic year. Tasks will be changed every two years.

Learners will write about the whole play using linguistic and literary approaches to show understanding of developments in plot and character, to explore themes, to analyse language and structure, to engage with changes in attitudes and ideas over time, and to comment on changes in language use over time. They must also consider the context of the play and the way contextual factors inform their reading.

Learners can be encouraged to watch live/recorded performances of the chosen play to develop their understanding. However, this must not be a substitute for studying the whole text.

Task A will assess AO1 and AO2.

#### Task B

Task B requires learners to undertake a paired discussion based on the study of one prescribed 1600-1900 poem from the WJEC Anthology and a further poem selected by the learner from the anthology or an additional self-selected poem. Learners may include a third poem in the discussion if they wish.

WJEC will publish a choice of stimuli for the discussion, along with one prescribed poem from two of the themes in the poetry anthology. These will be published during the first week of April for assessment for the following academic year. Stimuli and poems will be changed every two years.

The suggested duration of the discussion is 5-8 minutes. Centres must make an audio-visual recording of all paired discussions.

Task B will assess AO2 and AO1.

## 4 MALPRACTICE

Before the course starts, the teacher is responsible for informing candidates of WJEC's regulations concerning malpractice. Candidates must not take part in any unfair practice in the preparation of work for GCSE English Language and Literature (Single and Double Award).

Information regarding malpractice is available in our [Guide to preventing, reporting and investigating malpractice](#).

All cases of suspected or actual malpractice must be reported immediately to WJEC ([malpractice@wjec.co.uk](mailto:malpractice@wjec.co.uk)). If candidates commit malpractice, they may be penalised or disqualified from the examinations.

In all cases of malpractice, centres are advised to consult the JCQ booklet [Suspected Malpractice: Policies and Procedures](#).

## 5 TECHNICAL INFORMATION

### 5.1 Entries and Awards

This is a unitised qualification. Candidates are entered for each unit separately.

Non-examination assessment opportunities (Unit 2, Unit 3 and Unit 5) will only be available in the summer series each year, while examination assessment opportunities (Unit 1, Unit 4a, Unit 4b and Unit 6) will be available in the summer series and in November each year, until the end of the life of the specification. Please note that November cash-in is only available to post-16 candidates.

Unit 1, Unit 2 and Unit 3 will first be available in summer 2026.

Unit 4b will be available for the first time in November 2026.

Unit 4a, Unit 5 and Unit 6 will be available for the first time in summer 2027.

Pre-16 Candidates (i.e. candidates who are 16 or under on 31<sup>st</sup> August in the academic year in which they were entered)

The terminal rule is set at 30% of the overall qualification for Pre-16 Candidates for GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award and Single Award) and this must include an examination.

If the assessment being re-taken contributes to the 30% terminal rule requirement, the marks for the new assessment will count regardless of previous results in that assessment.

Candidates may resit an individual unit once only. The better uniform mark score from the two attempts will be used in calculating the final overall grade subject to the terminal rule being satisfied first i.e. that candidates must complete 30% of the assessment for a qualification in the series in which they are cashing in.

If any unit has been attempted twice and a candidate wishes to enter the unit for the third time, the candidate will have to re-enter all units and the appropriate cash-in(s). This is referred to as a 'fresh start'. When retaking a qualification (fresh start), a candidate may have up to two attempts at each unit. However, no results from examination units taken prior to the fresh start can be used in aggregating the new grade(s).

If a candidate has been entered for but is absent for a unit, the absence does not count as an attempt. The candidate would, however, qualify as a resit candidate in the final resit series.

Marks for non-examination assessment may be used for the life of the specification.

Post-16 Candidates (i.e. candidates who are 16 or over on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the academic year in which they are entered)

There is no terminal rule that applies to Post-16 Candidates for GCSE English Language and Literature.

There is no limit on the number of times candidates can resit an individual unit; however, the better uniform mark score from only the two most recent attempts will be used in calculating the final overall grade.

The 'fresh start' rule does not apply to post-16 candidates.

If a candidate has been entered for but is absent for a unit, the absence does not count as an attempt. The candidate would, however, qualify as a resit candidate in the final resit series.

Marks for non-examination assessment may be used for the life of the specification.

### **Conversion of a Double Award result to a Single Award result**

Post-16\* candidates can request the conversion of a Double Award result to a Single Award result.

The rules regarding this conversion are:

- A post-16\* candidate must have cashed-in for the Double Award before a request for a conversion can be made for the Single Award.
- Performance in Unit 4b of the Double Award will be used as a proxy for Unit 4a of the Single Award for the purposes of this conversion.
- This route is not permissible for pre-16\* candidates.
- A request can be made by a centre for a conversion for the lifetime of the specification.
- A centre must obtain candidate permission and ensure their eligibility before submitting a request for a conversion.
- Candidates will not be able to do the following:
  - i) use unit 4a for the Double Award cash-in
  - ii) convert from a Single Award result to a Double Award result.
- Candidates cannot receive a result for both the Single Award and Double Award in a single series.

\* Candidates who have cashed in in the summer year 11 but aren't 16 when they request back calculation are eligible.

Approved conversions rescind the Double Award result and issues a candidate a new Single Award result.

The procedures for requesting a conversion will be available to centres prior to the first award.

The entry codes appear below:

		Entry codes
Unit 1	Context and meaning	3750U1
Unit 2	Belonging	3750U2
Unit 3	Influence and power	3750U3
Unit 4a (Single)	(Single Award) Motivations - An Inspector Calls	3750UA
Unit 4a (Single)	(Single Award) Motivations - The Importance of Being Earnest	3750UB
Unit 4a (Single)	(Single Award) Motivations - Refugee Boy: playscript	3750UC
Unit 4a (Single)	(Single Award) Motivations - Pygmalion	3750UD
Unit 4a (Single)	(Single Award) Motivations - A Midsummer Night's Dream	3750UE
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - An Inspector Calls	3750UF
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - Animal Farm	3750UG
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - Pigeon	3750UH
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - My Name Is Leon	3750UJ
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - Leave Taking	3750UK
Unit 4b (Double)	(Double Award) Motivations - DNA	3750UL
Unit 5 (Double)	Continuity and change	3750U5
Unit 6 (Double)	Connections	3750U6
<b>WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature (Single Award)</b>		3750QS
<b>WJEC GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)</b>		3750QD

The current edition of our Entry Procedures and Coding Information gives up-to-date entry procedures.

## 5.2 Grading, awarding and reporting

GCSE single award qualifications are reported on an eight-point scale from A\*-G, where A\* is the highest grade. GCSE double award qualifications are reported on an eight-point scale from A\*A\* - GG, where A\*A\* is the highest grade. Attainment that is insufficient to lead to the award of a certificate at GCSE is reported as 'Unclassified' or 'U'.

Individual unit results are reported on a uniform mark scale (UMS) with the following grade equivalences:

Single Award:

Unit	MAX.	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	24
2	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16
3	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16
4a	120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	24

Unit	MAX.	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
<b>Total</b>	400	360	320	280	240	200	160	120	80

Double Award:

Unit	MAX.	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	120	108	96	84	72	60	48	36	24
2	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16
3	80	72	64	56	48	40	32	24	16
4b	160	144	128	112	96	80	64	48	32
5	160	144	128	112	96	80	64	48	32
6	200	180	160	140	120	100	80	60	40

Unit	MAX.	A*A*	AA	BB	CC	DD	EE	FF	GG
<b>Total</b>	800	720	640	560	480	400	320	240	160

## Appendix A

Curriculum for Wales Strands	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4a	Unit 4b	Unit 5	Unit 6
Cross-cutting Themes							
Local, National & International Contexts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sustainability	✓		✓			✓	✓
Relationships and Sexuality Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Human Rights Education		✓	✓				✓
Careers and Work-Related Experiences			✓				✓
Cross-curricular Skills - Literacy							
Listening	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Reading	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Speaking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Writing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Curriculum for Wales Strands	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4a	Unit 4b	Unit 5	Unit 6
Cross-curricular Skills - Numeracy							
Developing Mathematical Proficiency							
Understanding the number system helps us to represent and compare relationships between numbers and quantities							
Learning about geometry helps us understand shape, space and position and learning about measurement helps us quantify in the real world							
Learning that statistics represent data and that probability models chance help us make informed inferences and decisions		✓	✓				✓

Curriculum for Wales Strands	Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4a	Unit 4b	Unit 5	Unit 6
Digital Competence							
Citizenship		✓	✓			✓	
Interacting and Collaborating	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Producing		✓	✓			✓	
Data and Computational Thinking							
Integral Skills							
Creativity and Innovation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Critical Thinking and Problem Solving	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Planning and Organisation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Personal Effectiveness	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓