

GCSE English Language and English Literature Newsletter

April 2023

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

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1. Arrangements for summer 2023

Following the pandemic disruption, all learners should now be following the specifications as published on the WJEC website.

There are, however, exceptions for candidates who cashed in GCSE English Literature in 2022. An FAQ document for the GCSE English Literature **resit** requirements for 2023 can be found [here](#). The FAQ document is to be read in conjunction with the [WJEC Guide to resits for November 2022, January 2023 and Summer 2023](#).

Please note, these requirements apply only for candidates who cashed-in in 2022 and not any other previous series.

Advance information for the summer series for GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature is available now via the relevant subject webpages:
[English Language](#)
[English Literature](#).

The advance information document provides the focus of the content of the summer 2023 examination papers. It does not apply to any other examination series. It is intended to support revision. It may be used at any time from the date of release. It must not be taken into the examination.

You will also find a series of helpful [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on the website to help you and your learners understand the regulatory approach to the summer 2023 series and how to manage unforeseen incidents.

Results Day

Results day for GCSE qualifications will be 24th August 2023, when results can be issued to learners and Principal and NEA reports will be available.

2. Resources

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

These free digital resources are available on the [Digital Resources website](#).

English Language

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

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

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

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

The most recent blended learning resource, **KS3-4 Bridging Unit: English Language/Literature**, is now available to use with learners. This resource comprises ten distinct units which cover a range of oracy, reading and writing skills through a series of extracts from *Of Mice and Men*.

English Literature

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

Under [Digital Resources](#), you will find: our interactive [Blended Learning Resources](#), our [Knowledge Organisers](#) and [Exam Walk Throughs](#) for each of the English Literature examinations.

Our Blended Learning Resources and Knowledge Organisers 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.

Our Knowledge Organisers can be accessed here:

- [A Christmas Carol](#)
- [A View from the Bridge](#)
- [About a Boy](#)
- [An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Context](#)
- [Critical Analysis](#)
- [Heroes](#)
- [Literary Presentations](#)
- [Lord of the Flies](#)
- [Macbeth \(NEA 1\)](#)
- [Macbeth \(NEA 2\)](#)
- [Meaningful Comparisons](#)
- [Of Mice and Men](#)
- [Romeo and Juliet \(NEA 1\)](#)
- [Romeo and Juliet \(NEA 2\)](#)
- [To Kill a Mockingbird \(1\)](#)
- [To Kill a Mockingbird \(2\)](#)
- [Unseen Poetry Comparison](#)

Our Blended Learning Resources can be accessed here:

- [Unit 2a: An Inspector Calls](#)
- [Unit 2a: Heroes](#)
- [Unit 2b: A Christmas Carol](#)

- [Unit 2b: Blood Brothers](#)
- [Unit 1B: Unseen poetry](#)
- [Unit 1A: Of Mice and Men](#)
- [KS3-4 Bridging Unit: English Language/Literature](#)
- [Unit 2b: Lord of the Flies](#)
- [Unit 2b: A View from the Bridge](#)
- [Unit 1b: Making meaningful comparisons](#)
- [Unit 3a: Romeo and Juliet](#)
- [Unit 3a: Macbeth](#)
- [Developing Critical Analysis](#)
- [Making Productive use of Contextual Understanding](#)
- [Exploring Literary Presentations](#)

We also have [Welsh Writing in English, Poetry Resources](#).

[Sample Assessment Materials](#) are available within the Key Documents tab on the WJEC GCSE English Literature subject page. This document contains sample examination papers and detailed marking guidelines. We also have a wealth of exemplar material within the [Key Documents](#) tab.

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

Principal Examiners' reports

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

3. Professional Learning

During the 2023/24 academic year, our Professional Learning programme will be expert-led, interactive workshops, designed for you to get all the latest information on qualifications and feedback from the summer 2023 examinations.

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

4. Changes to the GCSE English Literature specifications

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

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

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

5. GCSE English Language Oracy

The current set of stimulus materials for Task 2: Responding and Interacting (group discussion) are for submission in November 2022, March 2023 and November 2023. A new set of stimulus materials will be published on the WJEC secure website on 1 September and will be for submission in March 2024 and November 2024.

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

Centres are reminded that, where candidates are re-taking the non-examination assessment unit, they must complete new work for both tasks within that unit, so that all work presented for assessment is new. The carry-forward option is also available to re-sit candidates should they not wish to complete new work for Unit 1.

6. GCSE English Literature NEA

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

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

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

Centres are reminded that there are a range of resources to support the teaching and learning of the poems in the anthology. The resources can be accessed [here](#). Theatre Adhoc have kindly created readings from the GCSE poetry anthology which can be accessed [here](#). We also have our NEA specific resources as listed in the Resources section of this newsletter.

7. 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.

8. Key dates

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

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

Remembering Margaret Graham

It is with great sadness that we share with you the news that Margaret Graham, an integral member of the WJEC GCSE English Literature family over many, many years, has passed away.

After being a senior examiner for many years, Margaret was, for over a decade, the Chief Examiner for GCSE English Literature, devoting herself to compassionate examinations for the young people taking our qualifications. She was a passionate advocate for the joys and benefits of literary study for all children, an approach that was reflected in the papers she set and in her management of hundreds of examiners.

Those of you who were fortunate enough to have met Margaret delivering training at our CPD events, could not fail to have been impressed with her knowledge and authority, her clear thinking and understanding.

In more recent years, Margaret focused on WJEC work that she loved and felt more impactful for young people: the creation of teaching and learning resources and the training of teachers.

We will miss her hugely and want to recognise the highly significant part she has played in shaping WJEC and Eduqas GCSE English Literature qualifications and assessments for generations of teachers and their learners.

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