GCSE English/English Language/English Literature

Bulletin No. 98E - October 2014 (Centres in England)

This bulletin relates to the specifications available to centres in England. There is a separate bulletin for centres in Wales.

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Introduction

Welcome to the latest issue of the GCSE bulletin. It's being sent to well over 5000 subscribers.

If you know someone else who would like to receive the bulletin regularly, please ask them to go to www.wjec.co.uk/englishgcse and click on "Subscribe to the GCSE bulletin".

We also produce bulletins for Entry Level English, Functional Skills English and GCE English Language, English Literature and English Language and Literature. You may subscribe to these on the relevant pages of the WJEC website - and don't forget our Twitter feed: http://twitter.com/WJECGCSEEnglish and our new online magazine i.e. - the eighth edition is available to view now.

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1. EDUQAS

Eduqas is a new brand from WJEC. Eduqas focuses on providing newly reformed GCSE and GCE qualifications for schools and colleges in England. The Eduqas brand from WJEC was developed as a response to diverging qualifications between England and Wales. Eduqas is dedicated specifically to delivering qualifications for Ofqual’s reformed subjects for first teaching from 2015, 2016 and 2017.

2. CHANGES TO GCSE ENGLISH, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE IN ENGLAND

From 2015 onwards, new linear and untiered qualifications in GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature will be available. These will be awarded for the first time in 2017. The new English Language and English Literature Eduqas specifications and sample assessment materials are available on the Eduqas website.

Current specifications will run until summer 2016. There will be a final re-sit opportunity for GCSE English/English Language in November 2016.

The current GCSE English qualification will be assessed for the final time in 2016.

Centres are reminded that from awards in summer 2014 onwards, linear assessment is compulsory for candidates in England. They sit all their examinations at the end of their GCSE course, rather than having the possibility of taking them at different stages during the course.
3. **NOVEMBER 2014 SERIES ENTRIES**

The regulators in England have concluded that it is not possible for candidates to early enter in November 2014. This series is a re-sit opportunity only.

Candidates who are re-sitting in November 2014 must re-sit Unit 1 and Unit 2. It is possible for candidates to carry forward their controlled assessment marks as many times as necessary for the life of the specification. It would, therefore, be possible for candidates to re-sit in November 2014 and re-sit in June 2015, carrying forward their controlled assessment and simply re-sitting the two externally assessed units.

Candidates who are submitting new controlled assessments in November 2014 must use the tasks for entry in 2014 which are available to download from the secure website. If the incorrect task bank has been used, centres should apply for special consideration when making entries for the affected candidates.

Entries for the November series must be received by 4 October 2014 and the results will be available on 8 January 2015.

4. **CHANGES TO GCSE ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE SPEAKING AND LISTENING**

The exams regulator in England, Ofqual, has confirmed that speaking and listening assessments will not be counted towards final grades in GCSE English and English Language from Summer 2014. Students’ speaking and listening skills will instead be reported separately on the GCSE certificate alongside the GCSE grade. Speaking and Listening remains a vital part of the National Curriculum and will still need to be taught and assessed using the WJEC’s published assessment criteria.

With the removal of speaking and listening from the overall assessment, the weighting of the two written exams in WJEC GCSE English and English Language has increased to 60 per cent of the overall marks (30 per cent each); reading and writing controlled assessments (including the spoken language study in GCSE English Language) will continue to count for 40 per cent.

5. **EXAMINERS’ REPORTS (JUNE 2014)**

The [June 2014 Examiners’ Reports](#) for GCSE English, English Language and English Literature are now available from the GCSE English webpage.

6. **IMPORTANT DATES**

[Important dates](#) for 2014-2015 are now available from the GCSE English webpage.

7. **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)**

We are very pleased to announce that this autumn and winter we are once again able to offer a full programme of continuing professional development events. These meetings will review the 2014 assessment – both exam and controlled assessment – and help you to
prepare for the coming year. Bookings for the current specification CPD events can be made [here](#).

Alongside this we will again offer the innovative [Online Exam Review facility](#) which so many of you found useful last year.

There will also be free ‘preparing to teach’ meetings on the new 2015 Eduqas GCSE specifications from November to February. Bookings for the Eduqas new specification CPD events can be made [here](#).

The materials from previous CPD meetings are available on the WJEC [secure website](#). To locate them, select 'Resources PDF Download' and select the link 'CPD Materials'.

We are keen to hear how else you feel WJEC could be supporting you with the delivery of GCSE English qualifications; please contact us at gcseenglish@wjec.co.uk (with ‘CPD’ as the subject line).

8. EXAMINER VACANCIES

There are vacancies for this year’s summer GCSE English Language and English Literature examinations. Application forms are available on the website. We require a minimum of two years’ teaching experience and two references.

9. CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Please note that the prescribed tasks and specified texts for study for 2015 and 2016 submission are those posted on the secure website. For candidates being entered in the November 2014 re-sit assessment series who want to enter new controlled assessment work, the titles for 2014 should be used.

If you do not have access to the secure website, please contact the examinations officer at your centre. To locate the tasks, look in the 'Resources PDF download' section and select the link 'Controlled Assessment Materials'.

Written controlled assessment moderator reports have been released to centres electronically via the 'Internal Assessment Mark Input' section of the secure website for the June 2014 series.

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

The deadline for submission of written controlled assessment samples to the moderator for the November 2014 series is 5 November 2014 and for the June 2015 series is 27 March 2015.

For the November 2014 series, centres may start inputting controlled assessment marks on the WJEC online mark input system from 13 October 2014. Please ensure all internal moderation is completed prior to submitting marks.

A document giving [further guidance on the use of student notes](#) in controlled assessments is now available from the website.
10. *i.e. MAGAZINE*

*i.e.* is WJEC’s online termly magazine which aims to provide key information, suggestions for teaching, updates and news, as well as interesting features relating to all of WJEC’s English qualifications. Take a look at the first eight editions (icons on all our English qualification pages), if you haven’t already, and let us know what you think. The ninth edition will be on the WJEC website shortly. If you are interested in contributing to *i.e.* then please email english@wjec.co.uk.

11. **REQUESTS FOR POETRY COLLECTION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-15 – A REMINDER**

Centres that have yet to submit their request for Poetry Collections for use in this academic year are asked to do so as soon as possible. Please send an e-mail to poetrycollection@wjec.co.uk stating your centre number, centre name and the number of candidates involved (not the number of copies required).

12. **STRENGTHENED GCSE IN ENGLISH LITERATURE (FIRST AWARD 2015)**

WJEC’s strengthened GCSE English Literature specification for first award in 2015 was accredited in May 2013. *A leaflet detailing the changes and giving the answers to a number of questions teachers may ask is available online.* In addition, the amended specification and sample assessment materials are available on the website.

13. **ASSESSMENT OF SPELLING, PUNCTUATION AND GRAMMAR IN GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE UNIT 2**

Centres are reminded that additional marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) in GCSE English Literature across all awarding bodies. *Further details are available on the website.* Unit 2 exemplar material from the June 2014 series will be available on our secure website shortly.

14. **AND FINALLY…**

This bulletin brings the sad news that Kirsten Wilcock, Subject Officer for GCSE English and English Language, has left us at WJEC and seconded to the post of English Advisor for Central South Wales. Kirsten was a great asset to WJEC and she will be greatly missed in the WJEC Languages Domain.

Best wishes to you and your students for a successful autumn term.

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