WJEC GCE English Language Resources Guide

This booklet provides an overview of the support, guidance and resources available to those teaching the WJEC GCE English Language specification across our suite of websites.

Subject webpage

The WJEC GCE English Language subject webpage on the WJEC website is the starting place for anyone teaching the specification and contains a range of official documentation relating to the qualification including the specification, sample assessment materials and past papers.

Portal

Portal gives teachers access to past papers and marking schemes ahead of their publication on the public website as well as access to other resources such as the NEA standardising videos.

For teachers to access Portal, they will need a username and password, which can be set up by their Examinations Officer.

Online Exam Review

The Online Exam Review website hosts marked examination exemplar in an interactive digital format.

Educational Resources

The Educational Resources website hosts free digital resources created by our dedicated team of subject experts and web developers to support the teaching and learning of WJEC qualifications.

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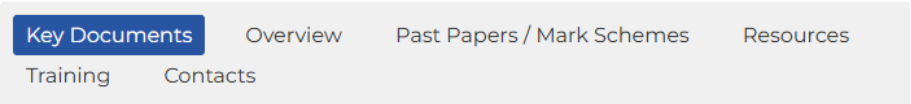
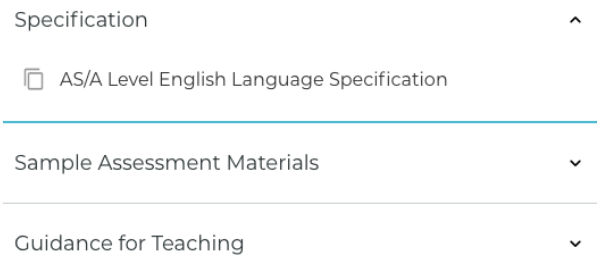
1. Key Documents

A list of Key Documents is available on the subject webpage of the WJEC website:



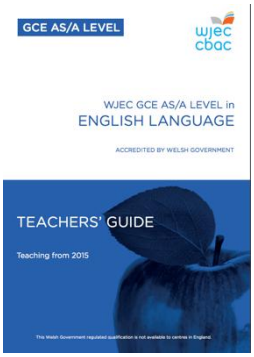
The documents are arranged in categories, and the documents in each category can be viewed by clicking the downward arrow alongside the category name.



Below are direct links to some of the documents that you will need to get started teaching the qualification.



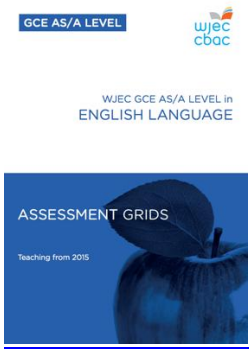
GCE English Language: Specification



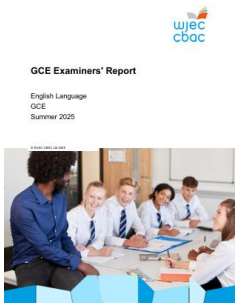
GCE English Language: Guidance for Teaching



GCE English Language: Sample Assessment Materials

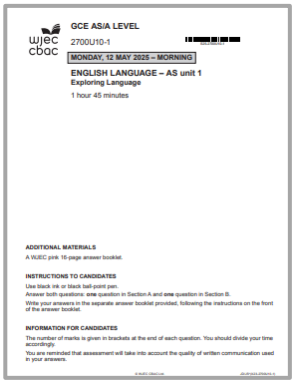


GCE English Language: Assessment Grids



AS/A-level English Language Examiner's Report, Newsletters and Communications

2. Past Papers


GCE AS/A LEVEL

2700U10-1

MONDAY, 12 MAY 2025 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE – AS unit 1
Exploring Language

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer both questions: one question in Section A and one question in Section B.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question. You should divide your time accordingly.

You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

Question papers from past examination series are available for:

AS

Unit 1 – Exploring Language

Unit 2 – Language Issues and Original and Critical Writing

A2

Unit 3 – Language Over Time

Unit 4 – Spoken Language and Creative Re-Casting

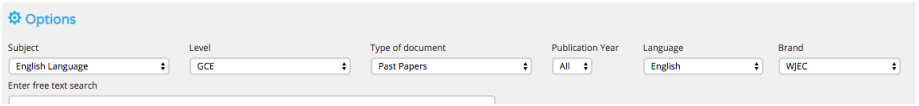
Past papers on Portal (shortly after end of exam series)

Past papers are published initially on Portal shortly after the end of the examination series.

To locate the past papers, select 'Past Papers & Marking Schemes' from the 'Resources' menu:

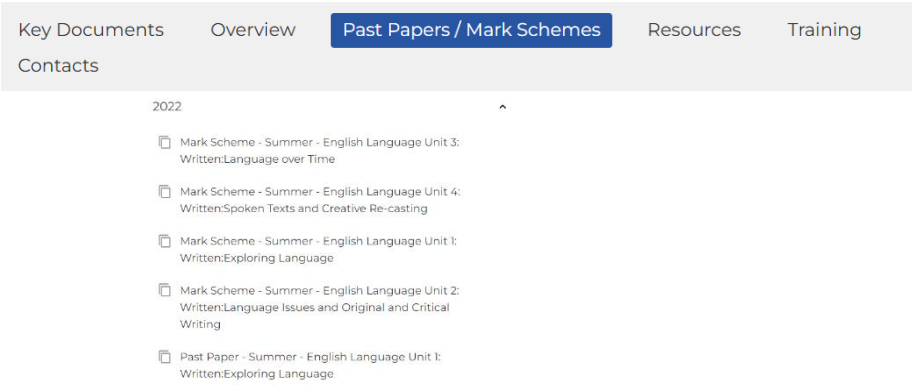


Then use the dropdown menus to choose the papers that you are looking for:

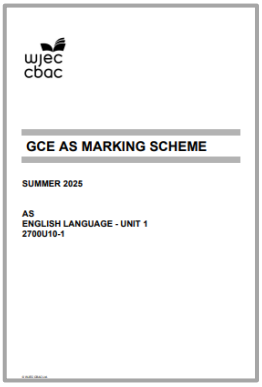


Past papers on public website

Past papers up until 2025 are published on the public website.
They can be accessed on the subject webpage under the *Past Papers / Mark Schemes* tab.



3. Marking Schemes



Marking schemes are available to accompany question papers from past examination series, providing instructions on how to apply the marking criteria, examples of indicative content, and assessment grids articulating the banded descriptors for different levels of responses.

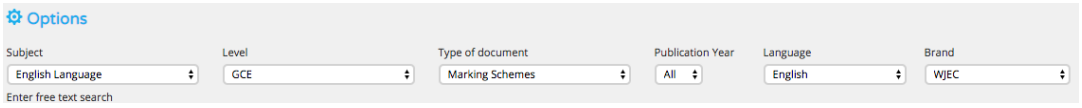
Marking schemes on Portal (from Results day)

Marking schemes are published initially on Portal on Results day for the examination series.

To locate the marking schemes, select 'Past Papers & Marking Schemes' from the 'Resources' menu:

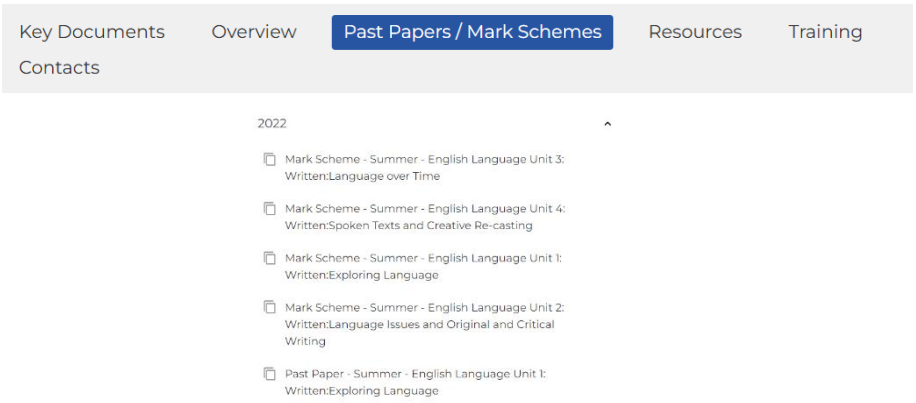


Then use the dropdown menus to choose the marking schemes that you are looking for:

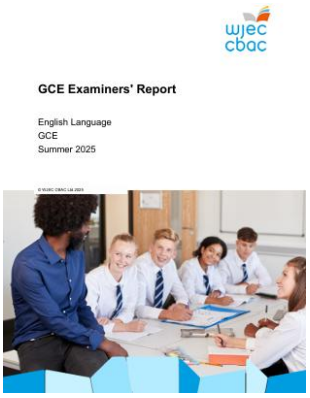


Marking schemes on public website

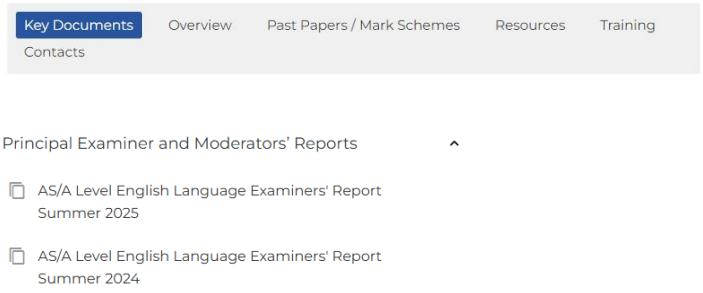
Marking schemes up until 2025 are published on the public website.
They can be accessed on the subject webpage under the *Past Papers / Mark Schemes* tab.



4. Examiners' Reports

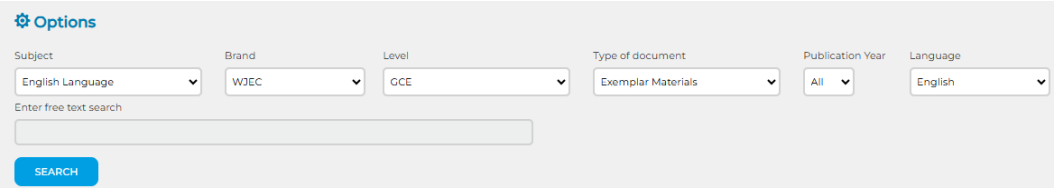


The Principal Examiners' reports provide helpful observations and commentary on candidates' performance across the examined series. They are published on Results day for each series and are available on the subject webpage under *Key Documents.*

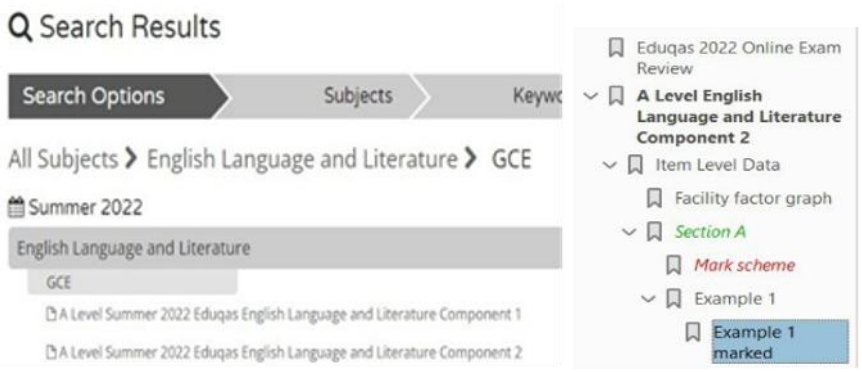


5. Exemplar Materials

Exemplar materials can currently be accessed via Portal by selecting 'Resources' – 'Subject-Specific Support Material inc CPD & Exemplars'.



Online Exam Review (OER)



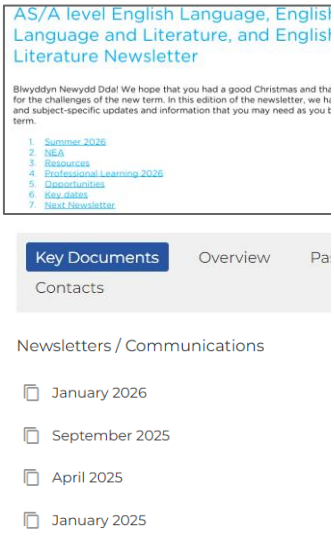
Until Summer 2022, a set of Online Exam Review material for each exam component was published. These materials, which are still available online, include both clean and marked exemplars of candidate responses to key questions from previous examinations.

The OER materials can be used with students, to encourage them to review others' responses and discuss ways in which they may be improved, thus developing their own skills.

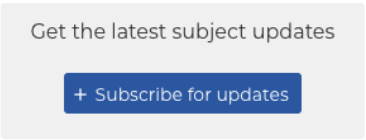
If you are accessing the OER document in a web browser and are only able to see a single page,

please download the document and re-open it in Adobe Reader to fully access the material.

6. Newsletters



Click the *Subscribe for updates* button on the right-hand side of the subject webpage to sign up for email updates about the qualification, including the termly subject-specific newsletters published each September, January and April.



Past newsletters are also available from the subject webpage under *Key Documents > Newsletters / Communications.*

7. CPD Materials/Professional Learning

Annual Professional Learning programme

WJEC offers an annual programme of Professional Learning events, featuring face-to-face and/or online sessions designed for practitioners to get all the latest feedback on assessments, an insight into our teaching resources, and a range of practical tips and strategies for the classroom.

Details of forthcoming sessions are listed on the subject webpage under *Training > Upcoming Courses*.

Materials from past CPD events





Materials from training events held in previous years are available on the subject webpage and can be accessed by selecting *Training > Materials From Previous Events.*



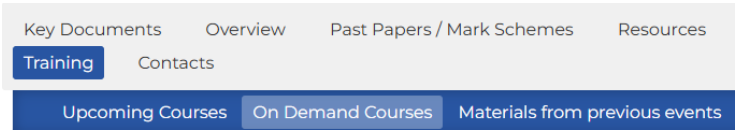
The focus of each year's provision is outlined below.

Autumn 2022	
Autumn 2019	**Assessment > classroom practice** – review of the 2019 summer series; explore A03 approaches to context in assessment and teaching.
Autumn 2018	**Assessment > classroom practice** – review of the 2018 summer assessment series, exploration examples of marked candidate responses and consideration of how feedback on assessments can inform teaching and learning.
Autumn 2017	**Assessment > classroom practice** – review of the 2017 summer assessment series and preparation for the year ahead.
Autumn 2016	Approaches to teaching A level English Language including examination feedback on AS English Language.

Pre-recorded webinars

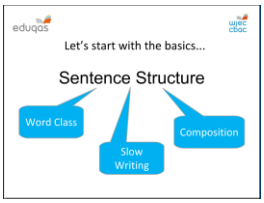
A number of pre-recorded webinars are available on the subject webpage under Training > On Demand Courses.





A selection of the available webinars for WJEC GCE English Language is detailed below.

Teaching Grammar



Pre-recorded webinar on teaching grammar in the English classroom. The video has been designed to support students and teachers at all Key Stages in delivering the English curriculum.

Cognitive Acceleration



Pre-recorded webinar on using cognitive acceleration in the English Classroom. The video has been designed to support students and teachers at all Key Stages in delivering the English curriculum.

8. Educational Resources

A wide range of free digital resources has been developed to support the teaching and learning of WJEC GCE English Language and these are available from our *Educational Resources* website.

The full range of resources can be accessed here and a selection of the resources are outlined below.

Cognitive Acceleration



In this video , Subject Officer and former English Adviser, Kirsten Wilcock, will explore how to craft learning experiences based on cognitive acceleration, an approach that focuses on questioning, collaborative work, problem solving, independent learning, metacognition and challenge.

Teaching Grammar



'Grammar for writing' is the focus for this video with Subject Officer and former English Adviser, Kirsten Wilcock. Covering word class, clauses and sentence structure, and exploring techniques such as slow writing and 'pointless prepositions', there are plenty of practical ideas to take into the classroom.

A Level English Language: Essay Writing Skills



A series of resources both interactive and printable that help develop students' essay writing skills.

Creative and Critical Writing: Travel Writing



A number of resources to develop the understanding of travel writing: preparing learners for travel writing, exploring key features of the genre, its form etc.

Creative and Critical Writing: Reviews



A series of resources to develop understanding of review writing: its form, potential audiences, and lexical and grammatical choices etc.

English Language Units 1, 2, 3 and 4



A series of unannotated and marked responses to SAMs questions for Units 1, 2, 3 and 4 to support the teaching and assessment of the GCE WJEC specification.

English in the 21st Century – Email



A range of resources to support the teaching of lexis, grammar, and structural patterns of emails. These cover analysis of emails, questions and interactive materials to focus learners in evaluating the ways this medium affects communication.

Creative and Critical Writing – Explanations



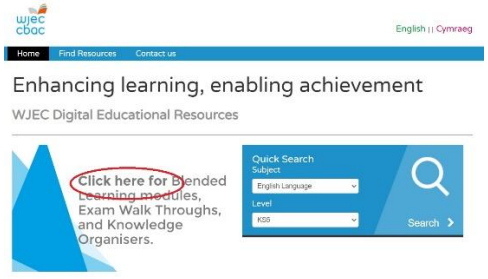
These resources aim to develop the understanding of texts that explain. The structured interactive tasks prepare learners for writing explanation texts, exploring key features of genre, and lexical and grammatical choices.

English in the 21st Century – Twitter



A range of resources to support the teaching of issues and concepts related tweets, and the consideration of context and language used.

Blended Learning Resources



WJEC has recently developed a range of interactive Blended Learning Resources for student self-study to further support the teaching of this qualification. These can be accessed by clicking the image to the left.

A number of interactive blended learning resources were developed for core subjects in 2021. Below are a few of the GCE English Language blended learning resources currently available on our website (Pictures are hyperlinked).



A level Unit 1: How language is used to convey meaning - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering A level Unit 1: How language is used to convey meaning.

Open resource More info



A level Unit 1: Analysis features of contemporary English to create meaning - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering A level Unit 1: Analysis features of contemporary English to create meaning.

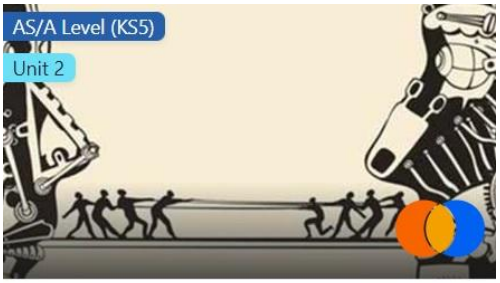
Open resource More info



A level Unit 2: Language and situation - crafting an essay using wider examples - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering A level Unit 2: Language and situation - crafting an essay using wider examples.

Open resource More info



A level Unit 2: Language of power - crafting an essay using wider examples - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering A level Unit 2: Language of power - crafting an essay using wider examples.

Open resource More info



A level Unit 3: How contextual factors shape meaning in texts written at different times - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering Unit 3: How contextual factors shape meaning in texts written at different times.

Open resource | More info



A level Unit 4: Analysis of spoken language features to create meaning - Blended learning

This blended learning resource contains interactive self-study content covering Unit 4: Analysis of spoken language features to create meaning.

Open resource | More info

9. Grade Boundaries and Exam Results analysis

Grade boundaries

Grade boundaries from past examination series are available by accessing the Results, Grade Boundaries & PRS webpage.

A raw mark to UMS information grade converter is also available for your ease of reference.



Grade boundaries are the minimum number of marks needed to achieve each grade. Whilst exam papers are written to the same level of difficulty, they do vary each year. Grade boundaries ensure that whenever the exam is sat, students receive the same grade for the same level of performance.

For unitised specifications, grade boundaries are expressed on a Uniform Mark Scale (UMS). UMS grade boundaries remain the same every year as the range of UMS mark percentages allocated to a particular grade does not change. UMS grade boundaries are published at overall subject and unit level.

> You can access unit grade boundaries and raw mark to UMS information in our Grade converter here

Grade boundary information is available for every unit. Make sure you select the correct information from the drop down.

Year	Session	Brand	Subject	Option
2025	GCE June	WJEC	ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNIT 1 (2700)	UNIT 1

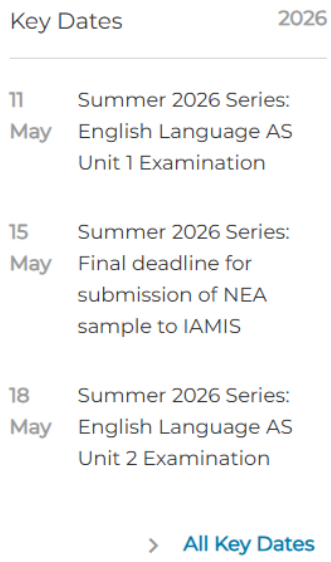
Exam Results Analysis

Exam Results Analysis can be used by teachers to:

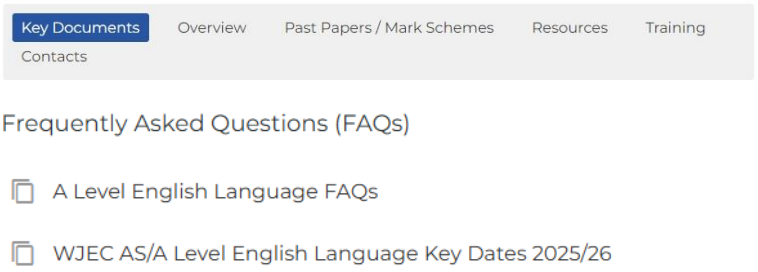
- Evaluate their own performance against specification norms.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses for a candidate cohort and suggest areas of improvement.
- Assist individual candidates in improving their own performance.

It can be accessed on Portal which allows you to compare your students' performance on each question with that of the candidature overall, letting you see where they have done well and where there might be room for improvement. To do this, under the 'Results' tab, click on 'Item Level Data' or 'Centre Performance' for comparable data.

10. Key Dates



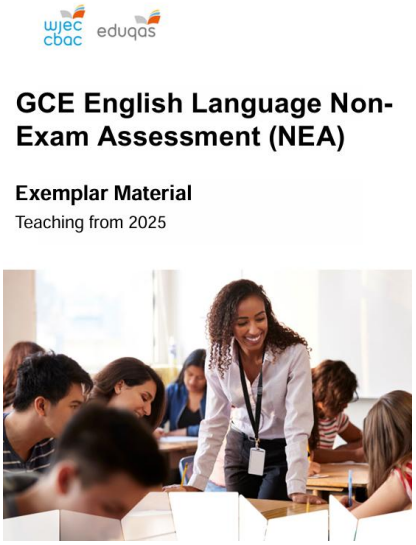
A list of key dates for WJEC GCE English Language is available on the subject webpage. They are listed on the right hand side of the webpage, and also available as a document under *Key Documents > Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*.



Published at the start of each academic year, this document gives you all the important dates you need to plan for the year ahead.

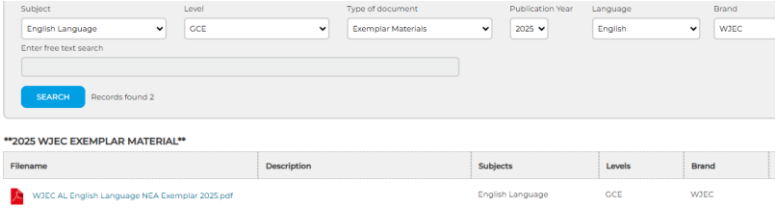
11. Non-Examination Assessment

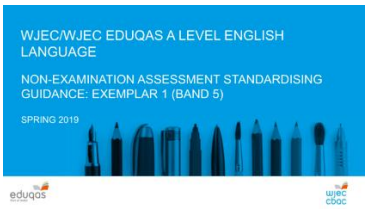
NEA Standardising Exemplar



NEA standardising exemplars are available on our Portal to support teachers standardising the marking of the NEA assessment.

The exemplars can be located by selecting 'Subject-Specific Support Material including CPD and Exemplars' on the 'Resources' tab and then selecting 'exemplar materials' as the type of document. Remember to select the WJEC brand in the 'Options' filters.



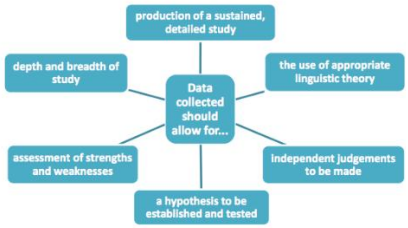


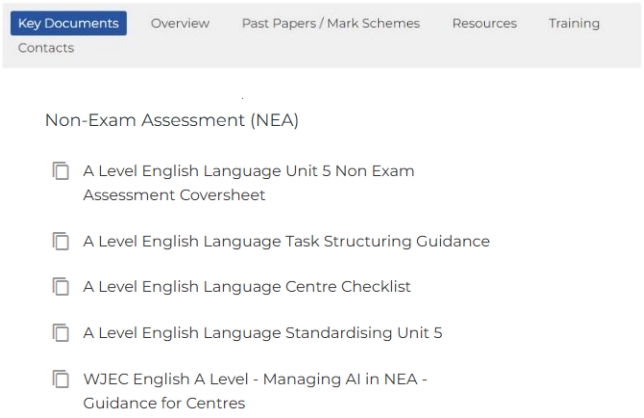
Online CPD offers guidance for teachers assessing the WJEC GCE English Language – Non-Exam Assessment. The webinar covers a range of important things including:

- Supporting teachers in their marking and understanding of expectations of NEA task.
- Exemplify marking standards rather than suggest 'model approaches'.

Non-Examination Assessment Guidance Documents

A number of documents to aid centres in administering the spoken language assessment is available on the subject subject webpage under *Key Documents > Non-Exam Assessment.*





These documents include:

- **Non-Exam Assessment Folder Coversheet –** should be completed for all candidates, not just for those candidates selected for the sample to be sent to the moderator.
- **Non-Exam Assessment Task Structuring Guidance** – advice on task structuring produced by the Principal Moderator.
- **Non-Exam Assessment Centre Checklist** – checklist to aid centres in preparing the NEA sample for submission.
- **Non-Exam Assessment Standardising** – to exemplify to centres how the assessment objectives are to be applied when marking and internally standardising the NEA investigations.
- **WJEC English A Level - Managing AI in NEA - Guidance for Centres** – guidance on rules regarding candidates use of AI.

Contact us

✉ gceenglish@wjec.co.uk	Our subject team is happy to help you with all your queries related to the teaching and learning of WJEC GCE English Language. Our Subject Officers are experienced teachers and are here to support you with delivering our qualifications. Get in touch with us via e-mail.