



GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

YOUR GUIDE TO SWITCHING TO EDUQAS

[EDUQAS.CO.UK/ENGLISH](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/english)

WHY SWITCH TO EDUQAS FOR GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE?

Switch to Eduqas for an accessible, engaging GCSE English Literature qualification.

Eduqas's [GCSE English Literature](#) qualification provides learners with the opportunity to explore a broad range of prose, poetry and drama, making connections across their reading and developing their understanding of literary works.

Our English Literature specification also features a range of set texts specially selected to celebrate cultural diversity and improve representation.



More reasons to choose Eduqas

- Accessible, reliable assessment
- Easy access to specialist subject support
- Free high-quality teaching resources
- Expert-led training opportunities

ACCESSIBLE. ENGAGING. SUPPORTIVE.

Wide range of text choices

Our selection of set texts includes familiar favourites alongside diverse voices and perspectives, allowing you to choose titles that resonate with your learners.

New Poetry Anthology

Our team of subject experts has curated a new collection of 15 poems for first teaching in 2025 and first examination in 2027. Our new anthology will expose learners to voices from a broad spectrum of cultural perspectives, featuring several poets and poems not offered by any other exam board.

Learn more about our new anthology at www.eduqas.co.uk/anthology.

Questions designed to suit your learners

Our source-based questions can be approached in a variety of ways, enabling learners to tackle the tasks in the way that suits them best.

Straightforward question stems

Our exam questions are accessibly worded, with stems that clearly indicate the assessment objectives.

Co-teachability

Eduqas English Literature and Language qualifications can be taught side-by-side for seamless learning.

How do we compare with other boards?

Assessment Comparison Tool included at the end of this guide

ALL THE SUPPORT YOU NEED TO TEACH WITH CONFIDENCE

Alongside our clear and accessible approach to assessment, Eduqas also offers a comprehensive package of support for teachers:

Easy access to support, including free in-person visits

Our subject experts are just an email or call away. Eduqas teachers can also access free advice and guidance both online or in-person from our Regional Support Team.

Free high-quality teaching resources

Our free online teaching resources are designed by an expert team to help guide teachers and learners through our specifications, and include:

- Exam Walkthroughs
- Knowledge Organisers
- Interactive Online Blended Learning materials
- An extensive range of Student Exemplars.

Expert-led training opportunities

Our comprehensive programme includes both free online exam feedback sessions and paid face-to-face training opportunities.

Comprehensive Assessment Feedback

Eduqas centres can access our free post-exam [Assessment Feedback package](#), including access to marked scripts, Principal Examiner reports and online feedback sessions.

Get more reasons to switch: www.eduqas.co.uk/switch



SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT

Component 1: Shakespeare & Poetry

Written Examination: 2 hours, 2 sections, 40%

- Section A (20%) Shakespeare: One extract question and one essay question on a Shakespeare text from our prescribed list.
- Section B (20%) Poetry from 1789 to the present day: Two questions based on poems from the Eduqas Poetry Anthology, one of which involves comparison.

Component 2: Post-1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

Written Examination: 2 hour 30 min, 3 sections, 60%

- Section A (20%) Post-1914 Prose/Drama: One source-based question on a post 1914 prose/drama text from our prescribed list.
- Section B (20%) 19th Century Prose: One source-based question on a 19th century prose text from our prescribed list.
- Section C (20%) Unseen Poetry from the 20th/21st Century: Two questions on unseen poems, one of which involves comparison.

How do we compare with other boards?

Assessment Comparison Tool included at the end of this guide

HOW TO SWITCH TO EDUQAS

Switching to Eduqas is a straightforward, three-step process:

1

Register your interest in teaching with Eduqas

Visit [eduqas.co.uk/switch](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/switch) and complete the Register Your Interest form. This helps us better support you through the switching process.

2

Ask your Exams Officer if your centre is registered with Eduqas

If not, they will need to contact us at centres@wjec.co.uk to register. Once your centre is registered, your Exams Officer can provide you with access to our Portal, which you will need to complete key processes and access exclusive resources.

3

Visit your qualification page for everything you need to get started

You can find this by going to [eduqas.co.uk/qualifications](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications) and searching for your subject. Here you'll find links to everything you need to start teaching with Eduqas:

- Your specification
- Guidance for teaching
- Contact details for your Subject Officer
- Free digital teaching resources
- Training opportunities
- Key dates for your qualification
- Past Papers and Mark Schemes

Now you're ready to start teaching with Eduqas – but if you need more guidance, contact our Support Team on hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk, or discover training opportunities at [eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning)

OUR FREE ONLINE RESOURCES



Blended Learning Modules

Each of our interactive online Blended Learning Modules covers a key topic, providing clear lesson objectives for learners before setting a range of tasks such as questions to answer on-screen, prompts for written work and downloadable practice exam questions.

Teachers can use our Blended Learning resources alongside traditional teaching methods in the classroom, or set them as online self-study exercises for learners to tackle at home.

Exam Walkthroughs

Exam Walkthroughs offer learners the opportunity to explore mock assessment papers through a narrated presentation full of helpful tips.

This resource is designed to help learners develop their exam technique and familiarise themselves with the structure and style of our exam papers.



OUR FREE ONLINE RESOURCES



Knowledge Organisers

Our Knowledge Organisers collect all the key information on a topic of study into an easy-to-digest format.

They're an ideal self-study or revision tool for learners, but they can also be useful for teachers in the classroom as the basis of quizzes or discussions.

Explore our full range of resources:
www.eduqas.co.uk/resources



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Eduqas offers a comprehensive range of professional learning opportunities to help you teach with confidence.

Our expert-led training programme provides all the support you need to enhance your teaching and successfully deliver our qualifications.

Assessment Feedback Package

Our Assessment Feedback Package is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of how assessments are marked or moderated.

This integrated suite of resources and training includes:

- Free access to Principal Examiner reports
- Free Online Assessment Feedback sessions
- Paid face-to-face training events
- Free access to scripts

Learn more: www.eduqas.co.uk/professionallearning



WHAT TEACHERS SAY ABOUT ENGLISH WITH EDUQAS



“As an experienced English teacher, I have used all the main examination boards and have never received the kind of support that the Eduqas team have offered.”

Kate Williams

Lead in English

Calday Grange Grammar School



“The Eduqas team have always been helpful and friendly when we’ve needed them... we’ve also found Eduqas’ exams less unpredictable than those of some of the larger exam boards, and more accessible.”

Emma Stockill

Head of English

Scalby School, Scarborough

ACCESSING SUPPORT

Our **Regional Support Team** operates across the UK, and is available to help you teach Eduqas qualifications with confidence.

As an Eduqas teacher, you can access their support for free online or in-person at a time and place that suits you.

Each member of the team is an experienced former teacher who understands the challenges of the classroom.

They can provide you with all the support you need to help your learners succeed, including:

- help switching to Eduqas
- expert insight into your specification
- answers to your questions on assessment
- guidance on accessing our free digital resources, and more.

Contact the team:
hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk

MEET YOUR GCSE ENGLISH REP



Catherine Oldham

Catherine has extensive experience in the secondary education sector, both as Head of English at a large sixth form college, and as a Subject Officer at another major exam board.

Catherine has also been closely involved in the development of specifications and teaching resources:

“My role as an Eduqas Regional Rep involves supporting teachers in delivering our qualifications both online and in-person.

The most fulfilling part of the role for me is when teachers say that my support sessions have helped them in preparing their students, and that they can see definite improvements in results.

If I had to sum up what makes Eduqas special, I think it's our focus on giving learners the opportunity to show what they can do - our assessments put accessibility first and foremost.”

Thinking of switching? Contact Catherine at hereforyou@eduqas.co.uk or [request an informal online chat through our booking page](#).

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A group of five students in school uniforms are gathered around a table in a library. One student is standing and holding an open book, while others are seated and looking at books or talking. The background shows bookshelves filled with books and a quote on the wall: "A good book when you turn the last page and feel as if you have lost a friend. - Paul" (partially visible).

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

ASSESSMENT COMPARISON TOOL

ASSESSMENT COMPARISON TOOL

We want students to show their engagement with whole texts, understanding what Literature can teach them about their lives, relationships and important ideas.

Feature	Eduqas	AQA
Specification		
Component 1	Shakespeare & Anthology Poetry (2hr)	Shakespeare & 19th Century Prose (1hr 45)
Component 2	Modern Prose or Drama, 19th Century Prose & Unseen Poetry (2 hr 30)	Modern Prose or Drama, Anthology Poetry & Unseen Poetry (2 hr 15)
Insight	We have given a little more time for students, particularly on the component with three elements. We have arranged the text types to give students variety across each component.	Both Anthology and Unseen Poetry comes together on Paper 2.
Books	All exam boards offer the same core texts that are most popular with teachers: Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls. All boards also now offer more diverse texts including Boys Don't Cry (Malorie Blackman) and Leave Taking (Winsome Pinnock). There are variations in the less commonly used texts. For example, Eduqas is the only exam board to offer Oranges are not the Only Fruit (Jeanette Winterson).	
Shakespeare		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract (15 marks) • Whole text essay (25 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract-based essay (34 marks)

Our ethos for GCSE English Literature is very similar to that for GCSE English Language so there are common approaches which students can adopt for both GCSEs.

OCR	Pearson
Specification	
Modern Prose or Drama with Unseen Prose & 19th Century Prose (2 hr)	Shakespeare & Modern Prose or Drama (1 hr 45)
Anthology Poetry & Shakespeare (2hr)	19th Century Prose, Anthology Poetry and Unseen Poetry (2hr 15)
Unseen Prose instead of Unseen Poetry. The Unseen Prose is used in connection with a studied Modern Text.	Both Anthology and Unseen Poetry comes together on Paper 2.
All exam boards offer the same core texts that are most popular with teachers: Macbeth, Romeo & Juliet, A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls. All boards also now offer more diverse texts including Boys Don't Cry (Malorie Blackman) and Leave Taking (Winsome Pinnock). There are variations in the less commonly used texts. For example, Eduqas is the only exam board to offer Oranges are not the Only Fruit (Jeanette Winterson).	
Shakespeare	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of extract-based essay OR essay (40 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract (20 marks) • Linked essay (20 marks)

Anthology Poetry, Modern Prose or Drama, 19th Century Prose, and Unseen Poetry »

Eduqas	AQA
Anthology Poetry	
<p>NEW Anthology for first teaching Sept 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One printed poem (15 marks) • Comparison with one chosen poem (25 marks) <p>We are the only exam board to ask students to write about the printed poem on its own first, and then to use their response as a basis for comparison with their chosen poem</p>	<p>Comparison of two poems, one printed (40 marks)</p> <p>Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response.</p>
Modern Prose or Drama	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract-based essay (40 marks) <p>Students and teachers particularly like that we provide an extract as a starting point for the essay.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay - one from a choice of two (40 marks)
19th Century Prose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract-based essay (40 marks) <p>The format of the question is the same as that for the Modern Text.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract-based essay (30 marks)
Unseen Poetry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One poem (15 marks) • Comparison with another linked poem (25 marks) <p>The format of the question is the same as the Anthology Poetry question. This helps students with timing and approaches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One poem (24 marks) • Comparison of methods in another linked poem (8 marks) <p>This is a potentially challenging final question.</p>

OCR	Pearson
Anthology Poetry	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of two printed poems (20 marks) • Analysis of one further chosen poem (20 marks) <p>Students will be writing about 3 poems in total.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of two poems, one printed (20 marks) <p>Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response</p>
Modern Prose or Drama	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract from taught text linked to an unseen extract from a text of the same genre (20 marks) • Whole text essay (20 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essay - one from a choice of two (40 marks)
19th Century Prose	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of extract-based essay OR essay (40 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extract (20 marks) • Linked essay (20 marks)
Unseen Poetry	
<p>No Unseen Poetry - the requirement for an unseen text is met with Unseen Prose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison of two linked poems (20 marks) <p>Straight into a potentially challenging comparative response.</p>

NEW POETRY ANTHOLOGY FOR 2025

A new Eduqas GCSE English Literature poetry anthology will be available for first teaching in September 2025.

Our team of subject experts has curated a new collection of 15 poems that will expose learners to voices from a broad spectrum of cultural perspectives.

- 8 unique poems and 3 unique poets not offered by any other exam board
- A balanced representation of male and female poets
- Poems from 3 contemporary laureates and one Nobel Prize winner – Carol Ann Duffy, Jackie Kay, Seamus Heaney and Simon Armitage
- Poets from all 4 UK nations, as well as those with Jamaican, Pakistani and American heritages.

POETS UNIQUE TO EDUQAS

Claude McKay

Claude McKay was a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, a movement of African American culture in the early 20th century. Originally from Jamaica, McKay's poetry often addresses themes of racial identity, oppression, and nostalgia for his homeland.

Zulfikar Ghose

Zulfikar Ghose is a Pakistani novelist, poet and essayist, best known for his work exploring identity, colonialism, and the complexities of cultural dislocation.

Eve L. Ewing

Eve L. Ewing is a contemporary American sociologist, poet, and essayist whose work often explores social justice, race, and the complexities of modern urban life. Ewing is also the author of the Ironheart comic book series for Marvel.

Learn more at www.eduqas.co.uk/anthology

Poem	Poet
The Schoolboy	William Blake
I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud	William Wordsworth
Sonnet 29	Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Cousin Kate	Christina Rossetti
Drummer Hodge	Thomas Hardy
I Shall Return	Claude McKay
Disabled	Wilfred Owen
Decomposition	Zulfikar Ghose
Catrin	Gillian Clarke
Kamikaze	Beatrice Garland
Blackberry Picking	Seamus Heaney
War Photographer	Carol Ann Duffy
Dusting the Phone	Jackie Kay
Remains	Simon Armitage
Origin Story	Eve L Ewing