

Subject: English Language

Exam board: AQA (Course Code 8700)

Link to website: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

Number & Name of exams: 2 Exams

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading (25% of whole GCSE)

- Pupils answer 4 questions on **one** literature fiction text

Section B: Writing (25% of whole GCSE)

- descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A: Reading (25% of whole GCSE)

- There are **two** texts: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
- Pupils answer 4 questions in response to these, including a comparative question.

Section B: Writing (25% of whole GCSE)

- writing to present a viewpoint

Pieces of Coursework (including names): None

Link to past papers: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/assessment-resources>

Reading List:

Link to suggested reading list for non-fiction: <https://www.stokenewingtonschool.co.uk/learning/subjects-and-resources/>

Main Texts: Non-fiction texts including: Travel writing, editorials, news reports, opinion pieces, articles, blogs, diaries, letters, reviews, persuasive speeches, political speeches.

Best revision guide to buy and available from: CGP Revision Guides:

https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/Parent/books_gcse_english_new and Amazon.co.uk

Best online resources/apps:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>

<https://www.stokenewingtonschool.co.uk/learning/subjects-and-resources/>

Three things to know:

- Pupils need to know subject terminology. Particularly, they need to know language devices and what to look for when analysing the structure of a text.
- The more pupils read challenging non-fiction texts out of school, such as broadsheet newspapers, the more they will be able to cope with unseen texts.
- One of the texts will be from the 19th century, so there will be some complex vocabulary and archaic language. The more pupils are familiar with 19th Century texts (including novels such as those by Charles Dickens), the more prepared they will be.