

GCSE English Language specifications (from 2015 onwards) - in a nutshell

	Duration	Weighting	Focus	Reading	Comparison?	19 th Century	Writing
AQA							
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes	50%	Fiction	Literary fiction	No	No	Descriptive / narrative (1 task, 2 choices)
Paper 2	1 hour 45 minutes	50%	Non-fiction	Literary non-fiction / non-fiction	Yes	Yes	Expressing a viewpoint (1 task, no choice)
Edexcel							
Paper 1	1 hour 45 minutes	40%	Fiction	Literary fiction	No	Yes	Imaginative writing (1 task, 2 choices)
Paper 2	2 hours	60%	Non-fiction	Literary non-fiction / non-fiction	Yes	No	Transactional writing (1 task, 2 choices)
OCR							
Paper 1	2 hours	50%	Non-fiction	Literary non-fiction / non-fiction	Yes	Yes	Non-fiction (1 task, 2 choices)
Paper 2	2 hours	50%	Fiction	Literary Fiction	Yes	No	Creative writing (1 task, 2 choices)
WJEC Eduqas							
Paper 1	1 hour and 45 minutes	40%	Fiction	Literary fiction	No	No	Narrative / recount (1 tasks, 4 choices)
Paper 2	2 hours	60%	Non-fiction	Literary non-fiction / non-fiction	Yes	Yes	Transactional / persuasive (2 tasks, no choice)