

AQA GCSE English Literature

Exam Strategy



What To Expect?

- Two exam papers
 - Paper 1 which will comprise of two 50 minute papers
 - Paper 2 which is 1 hour and 45 minutes and comprises of two compulsory sections – both sections are each awarded up to 4 additional marks for SPaG
- Tests being studied
 - Paper 1 – 19th Century Novel – EITHER ‘The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde’ or ‘A Christmas Carol’
 - Paper 1 – Modern text – ‘An Inspector Calls’
 - Paper 2 – Shakespeare – ‘Macbeth’
 - Paper 2 – Unseen Poetry



Different Questions – Extract Questions

- For both the 19th Century novel and Shakespeare you will be given an extract and will be asked to explore how a character/idea is presented within the extract AND the text as a whole.
- This is marked out of 30.

Read the following extract from Act 1 Scene 2 of *Romeo and Juliet* and then answer the question that follows.

At this point in the play Lord Capulet and Paris are discussing Juliet.

PARIS

But now, my lord, what say you to my suit?

CAPULET

But saying o'er what I have said before:

My child is yet a stranger in the world,

She hath not seen the change of fourteen years;

5 Let two more summers wither in their pride,
Ere we may think her ripe to be a bride.

PARIS

Younger than she are happy mothers made.

CAPULET

And too soon marred are those so early made.

The earth hath swallowed all my hopes but she;

10 She's the hopeful lady of my earth.

But woo her, gentle Paris, get her heart,

My will to her consent is but a part;

And she agreed, within her scope of choice

Lies my consent and fair according voice.



Different Questions - Closed Book

- For the Modern Text you will be given a choice of two questions – usually either a theme or a character.
- You will need to use quotations from the text to support your analysis but WILL NOT have a copy of the text.
- This is given a mark out of 40

JB Priestley: *An Inspector Calls*

EITHER

0 1

How and why does Sheila change in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- how Sheila responds to her family and to the Inspector
- how Priestley presents Sheila by the ways he writes.

OR

Question 2

0 2

How does Priestley explore responsibility in *An Inspector Calls*?

Write about:

- the ideas about responsibility in *An Inspector Calls*
- how Priestley presents these ideas by the ways he writes.



Different Questions – Unseen Poetry

- There are two questions in this section
- Q1 - you will be given a single poem and be asked how the poet presents a specific idea. This is rewarded a mark out of 24.
- Q2 – you will be asked to compare the poem from Q1 to an additional poem and compare how methods are used to present an idea. This is rewarded a mark out of 8.

