

Y10 Exams – AQA English Language and English Literature

You will have two papers:

English Language Paper 1 – Tuesday 16th June 2026 (AM)

English Literature Paper 2 – Thursday 18th June 2026 (AM)

The only equipment you must remember to bring is a pen and a highlighter.

English Language Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing (1 hour 45 minutes)

Reading Section – 1 hour approximately. This includes time to read the extract.

You will have one fictional extract to read.

Question 1 – Multiple choice questions – 4 marks

Question 2 – Writers use of language – 8 marks

Question 3 – Writers use of structure – 8 marks

Question 4 – Evaluation, how far you agree with the statement - 20 marks

Writing Section – 45 minutes approximately

Question 5 - You will have a choice of two tasks; writing to either describe or narrate. There will be a picture which you can use for inspiration should you wish to – this is not a requirement.

24 marks for context and 16 marks for SPAG

Useful revision websites

[How to use AQA past papers to revise GCSE English language - BBC Bitesize](#)

How to prepare for the exam:

- Attend lessons ready to learn, your teachers will be recapping everything you need to know
- Complete past papers, self-mark and green pen
- Read widely to learn from successful writers how they adapt language and structure for effect

English Literature Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry (1 hour 30 minutes)

An Inspector Calls – 45 minutes

- You will have a choice of two questions
- These could be on a character or a theme within the play
- 30 marks for the essay and 4 marks for SPAG
- Aim to write an introduction, 3-4 paragraphs and a conclusion
- You should remember to meet all of the AOs
 - AO1 – make a clear point and include relevant evidence, a quotation
 - AO2 – Analyse the text (explain how the quote links to your point, what language or structural methods the writer has used and why they used them, include subject terminology, zoom in on a key word, discuss the writer's intention and the effect on the audience)
 - AO3 – include any relevant context

Power and Conflict Poetry – 45 minutes

- There will be one question
- You are required to compare the named poem in the question (this will be printed for you) with a second poem of your choice (this will not be printed)
- 30 marks for the essay
- Aim to write a brief introduction, 3-4 paragraphs and a conclusion
- You should remember to meet all of the AOs
 - AO1 – make a clear point and include relevant evidence, a quotation
 - AO2 – Analyse the text (explain how the quote links to your point, what language or structural methods the writer has used and why they used them, include subject terminology, zoom in on a key word, discuss the writer's intention and the effect on the audience)
 - AO3 – include any relevant context

How to prepare for the exam:

- Reread the play and the poems in your anthology
- Use the questions in the back of An Inspector Calls to test your knowledge
- Learn quotes – this is so important! – make cue cards and get someone to quiz you
- Practice writing plans and/or essays for past questions, then green pen them
- Use BBC bitesize to fill in any knowledge gaps [An Inspector Calls - GCSE English Literature - BBC Bitesize](#) and [Poems - GCSE English Literature - BBC Bitesize](#)
- Mr Bruff on YouTube provide useful revision videos on all of the literature texts