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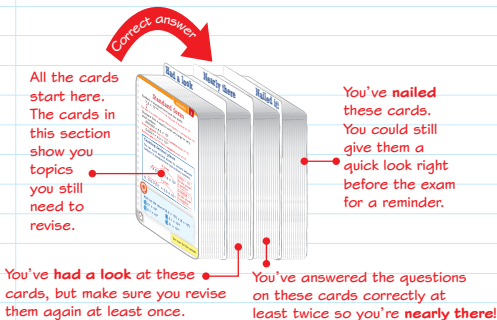
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Using your dividers

Make the most of your Revision Cards by using these **dividers** included in the pack. This is how they work:

- 1 Start with all the cards in the **front section**.
- 2 Read the front of each revision card and have a go at answering the question.
- 3 Turn over to check your answer.
- 4 Now revise the back of the card.
- 5 If you feel confident with that topic, move the card back one section.



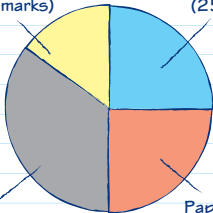
Planning your exam time

The English Language GCSE has two papers:

- Paper 1 – Fiction and Imaginative Writing (40%)
- Paper 2 – Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (60%).

Paper 1:
Section A – Reading
(15%, 24 marks)

Paper 1:
Section B – Writing
(25%, 40 marks)



Paper 2:
Section A – Reading
(35%, 56 marks)

Paper 2:
Section B – Writing
(25%, 40 marks)

Edexcel GCSE English Language



How many marks are awarded to Reading and how many to Writing across the two papers?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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80 marks for Reading and 80 marks for Writing

Paper 1 – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2 – 2 hours and 5 minutes

Reading and Writing

- ✓ Reading and Writing are worth the same amount of marks across the whole of your GCSE.
- ✓ When you are revising, you must be sure to spend as much time practising your writing skills as you do your reading skills.
- ✓ In both papers you read a text first and then write a piece of your own on a similar topic. Try practising this when you revise. For example, you might read a newspaper article about a sport. You could then write a review or an article of your own about your favourite sport.

Exam focus



- The Writing tasks in each exam are both worth 40 marks. You should spend the same amount of time on them.
- The Reading sections have different marks so be careful to leave yourself enough time.

Introducing Paper 1

Paper 1 is 1 hour 45 minutes long and has two sections:

- Section A – Reading Fiction – 24 marks
- Section B – Imaginative Writing – 40 marks

Managing your time

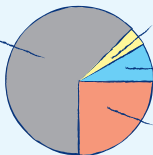
Make sure you leave yourself **enough time for each question**. You could spend:

- ✓ 10 minutes reading the text and questions
- ✓ 50 minutes answering 4 questions in Section A
- ✓ 5 minutes planning Section B
- ✓ 35 minutes on your imaginative writing
- ✓ 5 minutes to check your imaginative writing.



Section A has 4 questions:

Question 4
= 15 marks



Question 1
= 1 mark

Question 2
= 2 marks

Question 3
= 6 marks

If you allow 10 minutes to read the text and the questions, you have **50 minutes** to answer 4 questions. How long should you spend on each question?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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There are a number of ways the time can be split.
Try allowing about 2 minutes per mark:

Question 1 – 2 minutes

Question 2 – 4 minutes

Question 3 – 12 minutes

Question 4 – 30 minutes



Spend the last 2 minutes checking your work.

Managing your time in Paper 1

- ✓ Allow yourself 10 minutes to read the text and all of the questions.
- ✓ Don't spend too long on Questions 1 and 2 – remember Questions 3 and 4 are worth 6 marks and 15 marks!
- ✓ Question 3 is worth 6 marks – but you do not need to find every language and structure point. Aim to only spend 12 minutes on this question and to use one side of paper.
- ✓ Question 4 is the largest question and you will need to look at the whole text for this question. Save the most time for this to get as many marks as you can.

Exam focus



Don't spend too long on Section A! Once you reach the 1 hour mark, move onto the Writing section as it is worth 40 marks – you can always come back to the Reading questions if you have time at the end.

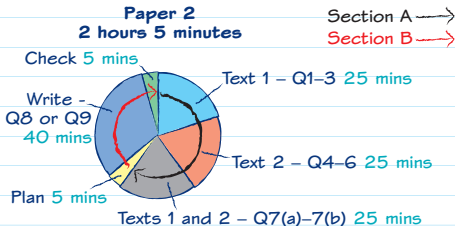
Introducing Paper 2

Paper 2 is 2 hours and 5 minutes long and has two sections:

- Section A – Reading Non-Fiction – 56 marks
- Section B – Transactional Writing – 40 marks

Planning your time

Make sure you don't run out of time – plan!



Section A has 7 questions:

Text 1: Question 1 – 2 marks, Question 2 – 2 marks, Question 3 – 15 marks

Text 2: Question 4 – 1 mark, Question 5 – 1 mark, Question 6 – 15 marks

Texts 1 and 2: Question 7 (a) – 6 marks, Question 7 (b) – 14 marks


Which questions should you spend the most time on?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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There is no single correct answer, but you need to spend the most time on Questions 3, 6 and 7 (b) as they have the most marks available.



If you find you have extra time, make it count! Check your work or start on the next question.

Using your time effectively

- ✓ Make the most of your time – when reading texts, underline key words as you go so you can find them quickly later.
- ✓ Don't spend too long on the first questions – the later ones are worth more marks.
- ✓ Questions 7 (a) and 7 (b) require you to look at both texts – look at these questions quickly before reading the texts so you can look out for points of comparison.

Exam focus



Don't spend too long on Section A – after 1 hour and 15 minutes move on to Section B so that you have a chance to gain those 40 marks. You can always come back to Section A if you have time at the end.

You can practise your timings by using past papers during your revision.

Reading texts – fiction

This section will have an extract from **one** work of **prose fiction** written in the **19th century**. Prose fiction is usually a story created by the writer to have an **impact** on the reader.

Effective reading

Think about **how** and **why** the writer has created characters, atmospheres or feelings, underlining key points as you read.

19th

Extract from The Half-Brothers by Elizabeth Gaskell

To save myself from shedding tears, I shouted – terrible wild shouts for bare life they were. I turned sick as I paused to listen; no answering sound came but the unfeeling echoes. Only the noiseless, pitiless snow kept falling thicker, thicker – faster, faster! I was growing numb and sleepy. I tried to move about, but I dared not go far, for fear of the precipices which, I knew, abounded in certain places on the Fells.

Suggests extreme fear

Emphasises harsh setting and lack of hope

Suggests sheer drop and how it is dangerous to move



The extract in the exam will have an **introduction** at the top, **line references** along the side and a **glossary** at the bottom. How will each of these help you?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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- The introduction tells you about the characters, setting or the action. It may help you understand what has happened before the extract starts.
- The line references help you locate the text you need for Questions 1, 2 and 3. Read the questions and mark off the lines carefully on the extract.
- The glossary explains tricky words. There will be an asterisk (*) against the word in the extract.

Prepare by reading widely. Make sure you are familiar with a variety of 19th century literary genres such as crime, gothic horror, science fiction, adventure stories, romance, satire, etc.



Watch out



Be careful with your line references and count them carefully to match the question. You will not get marks for mentioning points or quotations which are outside the lines in the extract referred to.

Exam focus



- Don't worry if you do not recognise all the words in the text. The glossary will help. If there are words you still don't know, carry on reading – you may be able to use the words around them to help you to understand the whole extract.
- Make sure you read the whole text – this is important for Question 4.

Reading texts – non-fiction

This section will use extracts from **two non-fiction** texts – one from the **20th century** and one from the **21st century**.

The extracts in the exam will:

- have an **introduction** at the top
- have **line references** along the right-hand side
- have a **glossary** at the bottom
- be chosen from the following **text types**:
 - articles, reviews, speeches, journals, reference book extracts
 - autobiographies, letters, obituaries and travel writing.



Which of the text types below could appear in Paper 1, Paper 2 or not at all?

19th century prose fiction	Newspaper articles	Review
20th century fiction	Speech	Poetry
19th century non-fiction	Drama	Obituary
Letter	Email	Autobiography

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Paper 1	Paper 2	Neither
19th century prose fiction	Speech Obituary	Drama Poetry
	Letter Review	Email 19th century non-fiction
	Newspaper article Autobiography	20th century fiction

In Paper 2 you will read 20th century and 21st century non-fiction. In Paper 1 you will read 19th century fiction.

Watch out



You will need to write about **both texts** in **Question 7**. Think about different ways the two text types are conveying the same idea and how this can be an interesting comparison.

Exam focus



- The introduction at the top of each text will usually tell you the text type. This will help you to think about why and how the writer has made choices of language and structure to influence and engage the reader.
- Think about who the intended readers might be and how successful the writer has been in conveying their ideas to these readers.
- Revise the features of each text type on cards 51–54.

Assessment Objective 1

In the exam, you will be tested on different skills in different questions. These are called **Assessment Objectives (AOs)**.

AO1 questions test your ability to **identify and explain**. They ask you for **key and precise information from the text**. This should be literal information, not your interpretation of the text. You should make accurate and precise statements to show that you have **identified** the correct evidence. You do **not** need to add any 'extra' information about the writer's use of language or structure. When the question allows you to use **your own words**, make sure you are **precise** and answer the question.

Always make sure you read the AO1 questions carefully. They are likely to ask you to find the **similarities** using **basic factual information**, not views, ideas, language or structure.



In Paper 1, AO1 is assessed in short Questions 1 and 2.

In Paper 2, AO1 is assessed in short Questions 1, 2, 4 and 5.

Which other question in Paper 2 assesses AO1?

Turn over for the answer.

7 (a)

Examples of AO1 questions

- 1 In lines 1–6, identify the phrase that explains why the narrator thought she could get home before the snow started. (1 mark)
- 1 In lines 18–27, identify two reasons why the 'appearance' is terrifying for new cab drivers. (2 marks)

The **short questions** are:

- only on one text
- focused on a short passage from the text
- answered with a word, phrase or a reason.

Refer to both texts in your answer.

7 (a) The texts are about foreign travel.

What similarities are there between the writers' experiences of travelling? Use evidence from both texts to support your answer. (6 marks)

Question 7 (a) in Paper 2 is:

- focused on two texts
- about the whole texts
- answered in full sentences.

Exam focus



For Question 7 (a), always make sure you talk about **both** texts equally.

Assessment Objective 2

Assessment Objective 2 (AO2) tests your ability to explain how writers use **language and structure to achieve effects**. In both Paper 1 and Paper 2, AO2 is assessed in **Question 3**.

- 3** In lines 9–22, how does the writer use language and structure to suggest the narrator's fear is increasing?
Support your views with reference to the text.

(6 marks)

- 3** Analyse how the writer uses language and structure to interest and engage readers.
Support your views with detailed reference to the text.

(15 marks)

These are examples of the types of question that will be used to test this skill. The first question is a question from Paper 1 and the second from Paper 2.



What are the differences between the AO2 questions in Paper 1 and Paper 2?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Q3 from Paper 1 is:

- worth 6 marks
- focused on a short passage from the text.

Q3 from Paper 2 is:

- worth 15 marks
- about the whole text.



Question 3 from both papers is focused on how language and structure interest and engage the reader.

Answering AO2 questions

- ✓ Remember to talk about **both language and structure** for Question 3 on both papers. You will not be able to gain high marks without including both.
- ✓ You should try to use the **correct term** (e.g. noun, simile, opening, short sentence).
- ✓ On Paper 1, be sure to take your examples **from within the lines given**.
- ✓ Use the **whole text** to answer.

Watch out



You don't need to include *every* feature of language and structure. Pick the **most relevant** features and analyse them with **clear reference** to the text.

Exam focus



Name the feature if possible (if you can't remember the right term, describe it briefly), but you must **always** explain what effect is achieved and how.

Assessment Objective 3

Assessment Objective 3 (AO3) tests your ability to:

- **compare the views** put forward in the two **non-fiction texts**
- **compare the techniques** used by the two writers.

Refer to both texts in your answer.

7 (b) Compare how the writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present their ideas and perspectives about teenagers.

Support your answer with detailed reference to the texts.

(14 marks)

In Paper 2, AO3 is assessed in Question 7 (b).

Think about the writer's viewpoint, the tone of their writing and if they focus on a particular topic in a different way than the other writer.

Watch out



Question 7 (b) is at the end of Section A. Make sure you leave enough time to answer this question.



Questions 7 (a) and 7 (b) both ask you to discuss two non-fiction texts. What are the differences between these two questions?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Question 7 (a) from Paper 2:

- is worth 6 marks
- is focused on similarities
- requires selecting and combining key information (AO1).

Question 7 (b) from Paper 2 is:

- worth 14 marks
- focused on similarities and differences
- focused on comparing writers' ideas and perspectives (AO3).



You can revise these question types with Cards 31 and 32.

Answering AO3 questions

- ✓ You will have already answered three questions on each text. If Question 7 (b) is relevant to information you have already used in another question, you can reuse it in your comparison.
- ✓ The texts are called Text 1 and Text 2 on the exam paper – you can refer to them in the same way to save time.
- ✓ Think about techniques, ideas, structure and tone – and organise your paragraphs carefully.
- ✓ Select short relevant quotations from each text.

Exam focus



Remember to look at the similarities **and** the differences between the two texts for Question 7 (b).

Assessment Objective 4

Assessment Objective 4 (AO4) tests your ability to evaluate texts. This means **understanding the ideas and intentions** expressed by the writer and forming a judgement about **how successful** you think the text is.

- 4 In this extract, there is an attempt to build tension. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved. Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

In Paper 1, AO4 is assessed in Question 4.

- 6 Bill Bryson attempts to entertain the reader through his description of hotels and guest houses. Evaluate how successfully this is achieved. Support your views with detailed reference to the text. (15 marks)

In Paper 2, AO4 is assessed in Question 6.



Look at the two questions above. They ask you to look at **a particular aspect** of the text. Which words in each question tell you what aspect of the text to focus on?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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Question 4 is about 'an attempt to build tension'.

Question 6 is about 'an attempt to entertain the reader through description of hotels and guest houses'.



Always remember to refer to the **success** of the writer in your response – this is part of the evaluation.

Answering AO4 questions

- ✓ Consider aspects of **setting**, **issues**, **themes** and **events** from across the **whole** text.
- ✓ You do not need to refer to any language features but you do need to use **relevant quotations** from the text to support your answer. For example, you could say, 'The writer successfully creates tension when he describes the "creeping horror" which shows that the narrator is slowly becoming more frightened.'
- ✓ You can give your own critical opinion but only if you back it up with a **strong explanation**. Remember these texts have been published and are usually written by **established writers**.
- ✓ Try to use evaluative language such as 'the writer successfully...' or 'the writer effectively...' and **explain** why it works well.

Exam focus



Make sure that you focus on **how well** the writer has achieved an effect rather than just **how**.

Reading the questions

Read each question on the exam paper very carefully.

- Focus on the key words in the question. Underline them.
- Check if you are being asked to write about particular lines in the extract. If so, draw a box around them on the source text.
- Check the number of marks – know your timings.



Refer to both texts in your answer.

7 (b) Compare how the writers of Text 1 and Text 2 present their ideas and perspectives about foreign travel. Support your answer with detailed reference to the texts. **(14 marks)**


Look at the question above.

- 1 How many texts should you write about?
- 2 Does it require you to consider the whole text or a particular section?
- 3 What are the key words in the question?
- 4 Does this require a long or a short answer?

Turn over for the answer.

And the answer is ...

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- 1 Both (two) texts
 - 2 The whole of each text
 - 3 'Compare', 'ideas and perspectives', 'foreign travel'
 - 4 Long answer
- 

See Cards 2 and 3 for more on timings in the exam.

Key terms

Underline any key terms in the question. It will help you keep your answer relevant.

- 3 In lines 4–12, how does the writer use language and structure to show the narrator's anger? Support your views with reference to the text. **(6 marks)**

Make sure you write about both language and structure.

You must explain **how** the writer achieves effects.

Pick out the key words in the question that tell you which aspect of the text to focus on. Make sure you use them in your answer.

Use quotations to support your explanations.

Exam focus



Read all the questions before you start writing. This will help you with your timings.