



19 October 2020

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Dear Year 11 Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you to inform you of the current changes and amendments to GCSE English Language and Literature exams in light of OFQUAL guidance.

AQA have now released details of how its exam papers will look for English Literature next summer. In addition to OFQUAL's announcement that Shakespeare is to be compulsory, AQA has also announced that unseen poetry will be compulsory for all candidates.

The optional components allow schools to identify two out of the three taught texts which will be examined in Paper 1. Our two chosen texts will be A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls, both of which were studied in year 10, meaning your child will have an extended period of revision time planned in to their English lessons. The format of these papers will be as follows:

Paper 1 – Centres will enter students for two options of the three available.	Paper 2 – Compulsory paper
Paper 1B – 19 th Century Novel Students answer one question on A Christmas Carol of choice. (30 marks) Duration: 50 minutes	Section A – Shakespeare Students answer one question on Macbeth . (30 marks + 4 marks SPAG)
Paper 1C – Modern prose/drama Students answer one question from a choice of two on their An Inspector Calls . (30 marks) Duration: 50 minutes	Section B – Unseen Poetry Students answer two questions on unseen poetry. Part 1: Students answer one question on one unseen poem. (24 marks + 4 marks SPAG) Part 2: Students answer one question comparing the first unseen poem with a second unseen poem. (8 marks)
Total duration: 2 x 50 minutes Total marks = 60 (46% of qualification)	Total duration: 1 hour 45 minutes Total marks = 70 (54% of qualification)

AQA have made minimal changes to the GCSE English Language qualification and therefore the examined course content remains the same. The Spoken Word endorsement, which Ridgeway Academy students have already completed, will be submitted but will not undergo the full moderation process, as in previous years. Students will continue to sit two papers, both 1 hour 45 minutes in length. Paper 1 will focus on Fiction and Paper 2 on non-fiction.

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To support students in preparing for these examinations we have chosen to assess all content previously taught in the November PPE exam series. This means your child will sit the following PPE examinations:

English Literature Paper 1 - Thursday 19th November – A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls

English Language Paper 1 – Wednesday 18th November – Explorations in creative reading and writing.

In order for students to fully prepare for their PPEs we recommend that students re-read A Christmas Carol and An Inspector Calls, use their CGP guides to complete thorough revision and attend all study support sessions which will revise English Language Paper 1.

We hope this information will help you and your child in preparing for the forthcoming GCSE exams. Communication following any further government announcements will be made by the school in due course.

Yours sincerely

C Carter

Miss C Carter

Subject Leader for English