

Key Stage 4 Overview – Erdington Academy

English Language and English Literature

Exam Board: AQA

Courses:

- GCSE English Language – 8700 (2 hours per week)
- GCSE English Literature – 8702 (3 hours per week)

Course Overview:

Term	Year 10 Language	Year 10 Literature	Year 11 Language	Year 11 Literature
Autumn 1	Paper 1 and Paper 2: Social Justice Assessment points: November (Paper 1) and December (Paper 2)	Paper 1 Section B: A Christmas Carol Assessment points: November (Partial) and January (Full)	Paper 1 Skills: The Body	Paper 2 Section A: Animal Farm
Autumn 2	Spoken Language Preparation (Cohort 2027)		(Mock Exams – both papers) Paper 2 Skills: Fight for Your Rights	(Mock Exams Paper 1 Full / Paper 2 A&C) Paper 2 Section B: Power and Conflict
Spring 1	Spoken Language Assessments (Cohort 2027)	Paper 1 Section A: Macbeth	Closing the Gap: Determined by class teacher	Paper 2 Section B: Power and Conflict
Spring 2	Paper 1 and 2: Game of Thrones		(Mock Exams – Full)	Paper 2 Section C: Unseen Poetry & Revision (Mock Exams - Full)
Summer 1	Spoken Language Preparation (Cohort 2026)	Wrapping up Macbeth (TBC)	Closing Gaps from mocks	Revision
Summer 2	Mock Exams (full) / Closing Gaps Spoken Language Assessments (Cohort 2026)	Paper 2 Section A: Animal Farm Mock Exams (Paper 1)	Examinations	Examinations

English Language Examination Information

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

What's assessed

Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

Assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)
A Spoken Language task will be completed as part of the course as well.

English Literature Examination Information* (2022 only)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

What's assessed

- [Shakespeare plays](#)
- [The 19th-century novel](#)

How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Section A Shakespeare: Answer one question on **Macbeth**.

Section B The 19th-century novel: Answer one question on **A Christmas Carol**.

You must write in detail about an extract from each text and then write about each text as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

What's assessed

- [Modern prose or drama texts](#)
- [The poetry anthology](#)
- [Unseen poetry](#)

How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Section A Modern texts: Answer one essay question from a choice of two on **Animal Farm**

Section B Poetry: Answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the **Power and Conflict** anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: One question on one unseen poem and one question comparing it with a second unseen poem.