

SOUTHFIELDS ACADEMY
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE
MATURE



Southfields
Academy

Year 12 GCSE Launchpad:
independent study booklet

Introduction to GCSE Mature English

Mature English students will follow the AQA English Language GCSE course. In November 2026, if you are re-taking the qualification, you will be entered for examinations in Language Paper 1 and Paper 2. This is a fantastic opportunity to achieve your qualification before the end of the year, but you only have one half term to prepare. Every second counts.

As sixth form students, you are expected to attend **all** English lessons, completing all classwork and homework tasks to the very best of your ability. You will need to do this in order to achieve **at least** a Grade 4 (pass) in your re-sit examinations. If you do not pass in November, you will have another opportunity in the summer exam series, along with those who have not taken the qualification before.

Course and Assessment Overview

Knowing how you will be assessed is key to your preparation for - and success in - English Language re-sit examinations. For AQA GCSE English Language, assessment is as follows:

- **Language Paper 1** Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (**1 hour 45 mins**)
 - Section A – one literature fiction extract. Answer questions 1-4.
 - Section B – one extended writing question. Answer question 5 (complete one creative writing task from a choice of two).
 - There are 80 marks available on this paper which equates to 50% of the English Language GCSE.
- **Language Paper 2** Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (**1 hour 45 mins**)
 - Section A – one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text. Answers questions 1-4.
 - Section B – one non-fiction/literary non-fiction extended writing question (question 5 – no choice of tasks on this paper).
 - There are 80 marks available on this paper which equates to 50% of the English Language GCSE.
- **Spoken Language endorsement** – a speech or presentation on a topic of your choice to be delivered in class. You are allowed to carry forward your Spoken Language grade if you have done this before. Therefore, if you are re-taking, you will not need to re-do your Spoken Language endorsement. Students must achieve either a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.

For more information, here is the specification for the course:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8700-SP-2015.PDF>

Please complete the following three tasks and hand them to your teacher during the first week of lessons.

Task 1: Literary Techniques and Terminology

Complete the table, looking up the definitions and providing an example for the following literary terminology and techniques:

Word	Definition	Little liar
Alliteration		
Ambiguity	Something with more than one meaning	
Atmosphere		
Adjective		
Adverb		Tragedy, Comedy...
Genre		Little liar
Hyperbole		
Imagery		
Metaphor	An expression that describes a person or object by referring to something that is considered to possess similar characteristic.	
Narrative		
Noun		
Onomatopoeia		
Personification		
Simile		
Tone		
Verb		

Task 2: AQA Language Paper 1 revision videos and exam tips

Watch and take notes on the revision videos for Language Paper 1 (Questions 1-4) from the Mr Bruff Language Paper 1 playlist below.

- *Language Paper 1* – follow the link or search YouTube for ‘Mr Bruff Language Paper 1 playlist’ [Mr Bruff Language Paper 1 Playlist 2026](#)

Revision Video (question)	Notes – summarise key information and revision tips in your own words. You can use bullet points.
Question 1	
Question 2	

Question 3

Question 4

Task 3: choose one of the Q5 tasks below. You should spend 45 minutes on this task.

- Write your response on lined A4 paper.
- Use creative techniques such as similes, metaphors and the five senses.
- Use a range of punctuation and sentence structures for effect.
- Don't forget to paragraph your work.
- If you usually type in examinations, you may do so for this task.
- **Do not use AI under any circumstances.**

Section B: Writing

You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on this section.

Write in full sentences.

You are reminded of the need to plan your answer.

You should leave enough time to check your work at the end.

05 A newspaper is running a creative writing competition.

Choose **one** of the following options below for your entry.

Either

Write a description of a busy city street from your imagination. You may choose to use the picture provided for ideas.



or

Write the opening of a story about an important journey through a busy city.

(24 marks for content and organisation

16 marks for technical accuracy)

[40 marks]