

Accredited

GCSE (9–1)

Comparison Guide

J351

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

A Comparison of the Cambridge
IGCSE First Language English
and the Reformed OCR GCSE
English Language

September 2014



OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

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At this time of change and transition, schools may wish to reflect and re-consider their choice of specifications and awarding bodies. We are aware that such choices are never easy and that teachers try very hard to select specifications that enable their learners to succeed. A number of schools in the past opted for IGCSEs to benefit their learners and because these syllabuses afforded more breadth and flexibility.

However, in view of the curriculum reforms for courses starting in 2015, to be first examined in 2017, IGCSE centres may wish to transfer to alternate specifications which will carry performance points, including OCR's GCSE (9-1) English Language (J351). CIE and OCR work together within our parent company, Cambridge Assessment, and in order to help you at this time of transition, we set below a comparison of our English Language qualifications for 16 year olds. The comparison focuses mainly on areas of skills, specification content and assessment.

There are, obviously, clear similarities and some differences between IGCSE and GCSE English Language. Both specifications are skills-based and aim to enable learners to:

- read widely and fluently
- understand explicit and implicit meaning and the techniques used by writers
- analyse, evaluate and think critically.

It is important to be clear that Ofqual have stipulated certain requirements for the reforms which cannot be deviated from, and these will be common to the specifications of all awarding bodies. For example:

- A new grading scale using the numbers 1–9 to identify levels of performance, (with 9 being the top level)
- English Literature and English Language will be untiered
- GCSEs will be linear with assessment to be taken at the end of the course in the Summer. Re-sit opportunities will be available in November for English Language and Mathematics only and for learners who will be 16 years of age by 31st August of that year
- Assessment by external exam only. English Literature and English Language will be externally assessed. English Language will have a speaking assessment, reported separately, that will not form part of the final grade.

For English Language the requirements are:

- All texts in the examination will be 'unseen' and drawn from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries
- The texts must include literature and literary non-fiction
- Comparison of two or more texts
- Spoken language is not weighted and does not form part of the final grade.



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IGCSE First Language English syllabus 0522	New GCSE English Language Specification J351
<p>Skills-based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Speaking and Listening 	<p>Skills-based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading • Writing • Spoken language
<p>Content Overview One compulsory component: Core (Paper 1) or Extended Level (Paper 2)</p> <p>1. Reading - Core: 1 hour 45 minutes (Grades C-G) OR - Extended: 2 hours (Grades A*- E) (40%)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>2. Writing Either 3 or 4:</p> <p>3 Directed Writing and Composition: (Core and Extended) 2 hours (Grades A-G)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>4 Coursework Portfolio Three assignments and a draft (Grades A-G) (40%)</p> <p>AND</p> <p>3. Speaking and Listening Either 5 or 6:</p> <p>5 Speaking and Listening Test which is recorded 10-12 minutes Assessed by the teacher and moderated by CIE</p> <p>OR</p> <p>6 Coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - One individual (recorded) - One pair (recorded) - One group activity <p>Assessed by the teacher and moderated by CIE (20%)</p>	<p>Content Overview Three compulsory components:</p> <p>1. 01 Communicating information and ideas Read and write non-fiction texts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read and compare one 19th century non-fiction text and one 20th or 21st century text - write one piece of original non-fiction. <p>2 hour written examination (50%)</p> <p>2. 02 Exploring effects and impact Focus on reading literary prose texts and creative writing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - read and respond to literary prose (one text may be literary non-fiction) from the 20th and 21st century – no 19th century prose text in this component - Write one piece of original creative writing. <p>2 hour written examination (50%)</p> <p>3. 03 or 04 Spoken language Learners present information and ideas in spoken presentations and listen and respond to others appropriately.</p> <p>Internally assessed (0% of final GCSE grade)</p>



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<p>Assessment Objectives (AOs)</p> <p>AO1: Reading Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">R1 demonstrate understanding of explicit meaningsR2 demonstrate understanding of implicit meanings and attitudesR3 analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinionsR4 demonstrate understanding of how writers achieve effectsR5 select for specific purposes. <p>AO2: Writing Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">W1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imaginedW2 sequence facts, ideas and opinionsW3 use a range of appropriate vocabularyW4 use register appropriate to audience and contextW5 make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar. <p>AO3: Speaking and listening Candidates will be assessed on their ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">SL1 articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imaginedSL2 present facts, ideas and opinions in a sustained, cohesive orderSL3 communicate clearly, fluently and purposefully as an individual and in dialogue with other speakersSL4 use register appropriate to audience and contextSL5 listen to and respond appropriately to the contributions of others.	<p>Assessment Objectives (AOs)</p> <p>Reading</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">AO1 Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. Select and synthesise evidence from different texts.AO2 Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.AO3 Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.AO4 Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references. <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">AO5 Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.AO6 Learners must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. <p>Spoken Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">AO7 Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting.AO8 Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback to presentations.AO9 Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.



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<p>Assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. June and November exams2. Grades: A*-G3. Unseen materials in exam	<p>Assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. June exam only (re-sit available in November for learners of 16 years of age)2. Scale 9-1 (9 highest) – grading for spoken language still to be confirmed3. Unseen materials in the exam drawn from 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries
<p>In conclusion:</p> <p>Both specifications are skills-based, share many common skills and focus particularly on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading and responding to unseen texts• understanding explicit and implicit meaning and the techniques used by writers• analysis, critical thinking and evaluation• writing for a range of audiences, purposes and contexts• using a range of vocabulary• using accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar. <p>IGCSE offers more flexibility, allowing for an optional coursework component.</p> <p>The new specification is inevitably more prescribed because of Ofqual's requirements that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• it is assessed entirely by examination (apart from the Spoken language which is not part of the final grade)• includes comparison of texts• it includes compulsory 19th century unseen non-fiction text• it has specific AOs weightings e.g. 20-40% of marks to be allocated to AO2 – analysis of writers' effects.	





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