GCSE (9–1)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE (J351)

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Features: 4 hours' assessment time; two equally weighted examined components; clear, straightforward assessment structure mirrored in the two components; one exam focuses on unseen non-fiction texts and non-fiction writing tasks and the other exam focuses on unseen literary texts and creative writing tasks; all Assessment Objectives are assessed in each exam; Spoken Language is a separate endorsement.

EXAM 1	EXAM 2	NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT
50% 2 hour examination – (Reading & Writing equally weighted)	**50% 2 hour examination – (Reading & Writing equally weighted)**	**Separately endorsed; marks do not contribute to the GCSE grade**
Communicating information and ideas	**Exploring effects and impact**	**Spoken language**
Candidates respond to questions on two unseen non-fiction texts: one 19th century non-fiction text and one 20th or 21st century non-fiction text. **Candidates write one piece of non-fiction writing.**	**Candidates respond to questions on two unseen prose or literary non-fiction texts from the 20th century and/or 21st century. (The combination of texts in this exam will depend upon the combination chosen for Component 1.) Candidates write one piece of creative writing.**	• One spoken presentation per candidate • Internally assessed and externally monitored • A sample of up to 30 presentations must be video recorded for monitoring purposes • Reported as a separate grade: Pass, Merit, Distinction or Not Classified • Compulsory requirement of the GCSE English Language course.
Section A: Reading information and ideas (25%) 1 hr	**Section A: Reading meaning and effects (25%) 1 hr**	
Candidates respond to: • Short answer questions identifying and interpreting information and ideas in the texts • One question synthesising information from both texts • One question on the writer's use of language and structure in one of the texts • One comparative question, critically evaluating both texts	Candidates respond to: • Short answer questions identifying and interpreting information and ideas in the texts • Two questions on the writers' use of language and structure – one question per text • One comparative question, critically evaluating both texts	
Section B: Writing for audience, impact and purpose (25%) 1 hr	**Section B: Writing imaginatively and creatively (25%) 1 hr**	

Candidates respond to **1 non-fiction writing task from a choice of 2**
 • The task is connected to the reading theme
 • The task will have a specified form, audience and purpose
 • The task may include writing to:
   • describe
   • explain
   • inform
   • instruct
   • argue
   • persuade.
 • Bullet points will be provided for support
 • Candidates are assessed on their use of a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with accurate spelling and punctuation
 • Presentational/visual features are not assessed
	Candidates answer **1 creative writing task from a choice of 2**
	 • The task is connected to the reading theme
	 • The task may include:
	   • narrative writing
	   • descriptive writing
	   • autobiographical writing.
	 • Bullet points will be provided for support
	 • Candidates are assessed on their use of a range of vocabulary and sentence structures, with accurate spelling and punctuation
	 • Presentational/visual features are not assessed	