

Level 1/2 Certificate in Living Texts – J945

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Living Texts?

Living Texts is a Level 1/2 Certificate in English that covers a wide range of literary and non-literary texts. Teachers and students can choose the texts they want to study.

The qualification has three units, each with just one assessment objective. The units cover analysing texts, recreating texts and comparing texts. All units are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Living Texts has been designed to enhance OCR's suite of English qualifications.

How does Living Texts compare to a GCSE?

Living Texts has two levels – Level 2 is the equivalent in standard to a higher GCSE, Level 1 is the equivalent in standard to a foundation GCSE.

The Certificate in Living Texts is a stand-alone qualification; it does not fulfil the English GCSE Key Stage 4 criteria. However, it has been designed so that it can be followed alongside GCSEs.

Who can take the qualification?

Living Texts has been designed as a flexible qualification that could be best utilised in a number of ways. For example, some schools are following the course in Year 9, others are running the course alongside a sole GCSE in English. Living Texts could also be used to stretch gifted and talented GCSE students.

Please see the progression pathways document in the specification for more details and suggestions on how to use Living Texts.

Can I teach the same texts as I am teaching for GCSE English or GCSE English Literature?

Yes – Living Texts has been designed to allow for greater flexibility so it is possible to coteach alongside English GCSEs.

Which genres are available?

Unit B931

Students must cover **at least two** of the following genres:

Novel **or** a collection of Short Stories
Travel Writing **or** Biographical/Autobiographical Writing
Drama **or** Film/TV/Radio script
Poetry (collection)
Spoken Language (collection)
Media (collection)

Unit B932

Students must cover **at least two** of the following genres

Novel **or** Short Story
Travel Writing **or** Biographical/Autobiographical Writing
Drama **or** Film/TV/Radio script
Spoken Language (collection)
Media (collection)

Please note the following points about Unit B932:

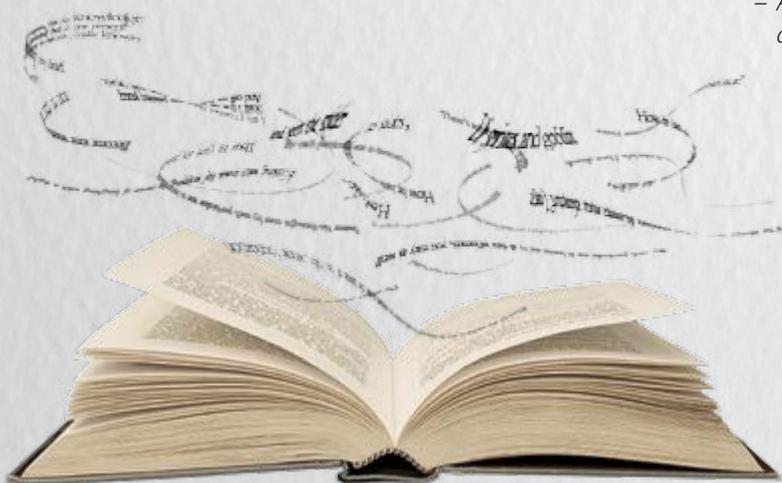
- At least one of the genres chosen must be different to that covered in Unit B931.
- Poetry is **not** available in this unit.

Unit B933

Novel **or** a collection of Short Stories
Travel Writing **or** Biographical/Autobiographical Writing
Drama **or** Film/TV/Radio script
Poetry (collection)
Spoken Language (collection)
Media (collection)

Please note the following points about Unit B933:

- Two texts, from any genre should be chosen.
- At least one text must be different to those studied in units B931 and B932.



How many texts should students study across the three units?

Students will study a minimum of five texts, but there is the possibility to study more.

What is an extended text?

Texts should be of a sufficient quality and substance to support detailed study and analysis at Level 1/ Level 2. Please see the list of suggested texts in the specification for guidance on the types of texts that are suitable. If you are still unsure please contact the consultancy for advice at living.texts@ocr.org.uk

In Unit B932 - Recreating Texts, how close to the original text should the student's work be?

To gain high marks in this unit, the mark scheme requires that students: *"Write in a 'voice' or register which is entirely convincing and fully consistent with the stimulus text."*

Please see the sample assessment material for suggested tasks that would lead students to do this, for example tasks such as:

Write a monologue giving the thoughts and feelings of [choose a character at a key point in a novel/short story].

Or

Talking Heads, Alan Bennett

You are Miss Ruddock, sometime after the end of 'Lady of Letters'.

Continue your thoughts.

Do I have to complete the units in order?

No. However, the qualification has been set-up to follow a logical progression from analysing to recreating and then on to a personal study.

Could my students complete Living Texts over two years?

Yes, Living Texts can be completed as a two year course. This qualification has the same guided learning hours as a GCSE, so it is possible to complete the units over one or two years.

Do you have more information about the controlled assessment element of the qualification?

Unit B932 will be taken under a low level of control. Please see the *Guide to Controlled Assessment* for further information.

Is the presentation compulsory for Unit B933?

Yes. Students can only receive a maximum mark of 30 out of 40 if a written response only is completed.

Where can I find support material?

Support material is available on the OCR website at: ocr.org.uk/livingtexts

This material is being updated regularly.

Is there a consultancy for feedback and advice on text and task choices?

Yes. For all queries about suitability of texts and tasks please email: living.texts@ocr.org.uk

How is Living Texts graded?

Students for Living Texts do not need to be entered for a specific level. Students will be differentiated by outcome. The qualification is graded in the same way as a GCSE. Students who are graded **a*** to **c** will receive a Level 2 certificate, students who are graded **d** to **g** will receive a Level 1 certificate.

Is there an age limit for this qualification – can it be used by Key Stage 3 students?

There is no age limit for the qualification. Please see the progression pathways chart within the specification for suggested ways to use the course.

Does the Certificate in Living Texts fulfil Key Stage 4 criteria?

No.

In which sessions can students be entered for Living Texts?

Living Texts is only available in the June series.

ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

General qualifications

Telephone 01223 553998

Facsimile 01223 552627

Email general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk

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