GCSE (9–1)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE J351
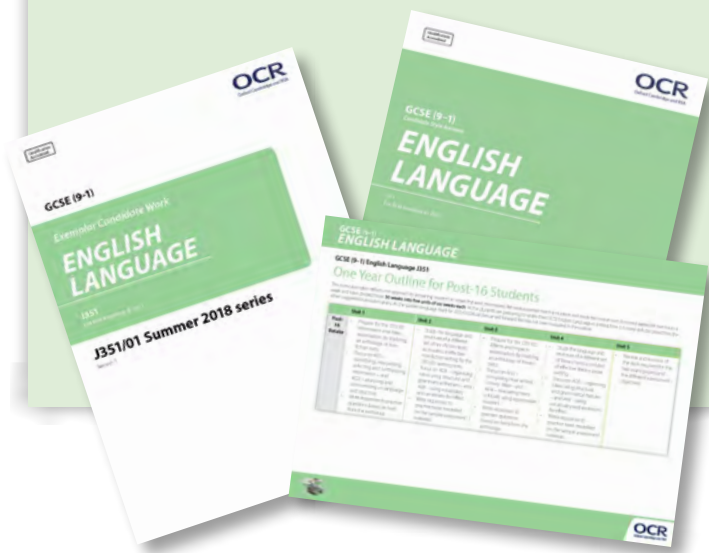
OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Key benefits

- **Straightforward to teach** – simple assessment structure with a mirrored approach to both components that is easy for teachers and students to understand.

- **Accessible and consistent question papers** – graduated level of demand to questions that supports students' understanding throughout each component.

- **Engaging** – unseen texts that support students' understanding.

- **Choice of writing tasks** – a choice of two writing tasks in each paper.

Content overview

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Communicating information and ideas (J351/01) **Section A:** Students answer four questions based on reading and comparing two nonfiction texts: one 19th century non-fiction text and one 20th or 21st century nonfiction text. **Section B:** Students write one piece of original non-fiction from a choice of two tasks.	80	2 hours	50%
Exploring effects and impact (J351/02) **Section A:** Students answer four questions based on reading and comparing two 20th or 21st century literary prose / literary non-fiction texts. **Section B:** Students write one piece of original creative writing from a choice of two tasks.	80	2 hours	50%

Our support and resources

We understand that moving exam boards is a big step, and we are here to **support you**.

Planning and teaching resources freely available on the [GCSE English Language webpage](#) include:

- Delivery guides: teaching support/activities for course content
- Schemes of Work
- Teacher guides (e.g. Reading skills, Writing skills, Spoken Language Endorsement guide)

Assessment resources freely available on the [GCSE English Language webpage](#) include:

- Past papers
- Practice papers
- Candidate exemplars
- Examiner reports
- ExamBuilder - our free assessment builder platform, ideal to create more papers for your students. https://ocr.org.uk/exambuilder
- Active Results - our free online results analysis service that allows you review your students' exam performance. https://www.ocr.org.uk/activeresults

Textbooks and endorsed resources

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/english-language-j351-from-2015/textbooks/

For all your specific subject-related queries, you can get in touch with our friendly, knowledgeable OCR English subject advisor team at english@ocr.org.uk.

CPD

We have a wide range of CPD on offer, including face-to-face training, webinars and videos – see https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/professional-development/

Next steps

If you're an OCR-approved centre, all you need to do is download the specification and start teaching.

Make sure you sign up to receive subject emails, so that we can share new resources and important updates with you https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/email-updates/.

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*"**Switching to OCR was made very easy**. The structure of the exams themselves is clear and uncomplicated, which means that students across the full range of abilities can tackle this exam. Secondly, the website has many **supportive** and **practical materials** that are invaluable when starting out with this spec. Most helpfully, the OCR English team are friendly and **available** whether by phone or email, and it's this last factor which firmly rubber-stamped our decision to change exam board."*

Madeleine Champagnie,
Head of English, Thames Christian School, London