

Your guide to the changes for 2021

Following an [Ofqual consultation in July 2020](#), we made changes to a number of our qualifications. These changes would have applied to the summer 2021 examinations, had they gone ahead. After [a further consultation](#), Ofqual confirmed the changes will now apply to the autumn 2021 examinations.

Please use [the specification on our website](#) alongside the information below, which explains how this qualification will differ in autumn 2021.

Overview of changes for GCSE (9–1) English Literature

For students taking OCR GCSE (9–1) English Literature in autumn 2021:

The **Shakespeare component** will be **compulsory**.

- Centres will be able to **choose which 2 of the 3 other components (modern prose or drama, 19th century prose or poetry) students will be assessed on**.
- We have split the J352/01 and J352/02 question papers into four papers – one for each area of content. Each paper has a new component code.
- There will be no changes to the question types in the exam.
- Students that take the modern prose or drama or poetry options will be assessed on an unseen comparison and will respond to part a and part b questions as they would in a standard year.
- For the compulsory Shakespeare component and the 19th century prose option, students will continue to have a choice of questions: an extract-based question or a discursive essay question.

GCSE (9–1) English Literature for autumn 2021

Students must complete Component 22, Shakespeare and two of the optional components (11, 12, 21) to be awarded the GCSE (9-1) in English Literature in **autumn 2021**.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<p>Shakespeare</p> <p><i>This is a compulsory component.</i></p> <p>Reading and responding to one studied Shakespeare play.</p>	<p>J352/22 Shakespeare</p> <p>Closed text</p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>50 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.33% of total GCSE</p>
<p>Modern prose or drama</p> <p><i>This is an optional component.</i></p> <p>Reading and responding to one studied modern prose or drama text, including making connections with a thematically linked unseen modern, same genre extract.</p>	<p>J352/11 Modern prose or drama</p> <p>Closed text</p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>1 hour, 15 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.33% of total GCSE</p>
<p>19th century prose</p> <p><i>This is an optional component.</i></p> <p>Reading and responding to one studied 19th century novel.</p>	<p>J352/12 19th century prose</p> <p>Closed text</p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>50 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.33% of total GCSE</p>
<p>Poetry across time</p> <p><i>This is an optional component.</i></p> <p>Reading and responding to one studied thematic poetry cluster from the OCR Poetry Anthology, including making connections with a thematically linked unseen poem.</p>	<p>J352/21 Poetry across time</p> <p>Closed text</p> <p>40 marks</p> <p>1 hour, 15 minutes written exam</p>	<p>33.33% of total GCSE</p>

- The exam timing for the compulsory Shakespeare component and 19th century prose option is 50 minutes, an increase of 5 minutes on the recommended timing for these sections in a standard year.
- There is no change to the exam timing for the modern prose or drama and poetry options.

What has changed?

What has changed – Specification	Detail												
<i>Revised entry codes for autumn 2021</i>	<p>All students taking GCSE (9–1) English Literature in autumn 2021 must be entered for the Shakespeare component and 2 of the 3 optional components: Modern prose or drama; 19th century prose; Poetry across time.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Entry code</th> <th>Component</th> <th>Assessment type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J352A</td> <td>11 Modern prose or drama 12 19th century prose 22 Shakespeare</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J352B</td> <td>11 Modern prose or drama 21 Poetry across time 22 Shakespeare</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J352C</td> <td>12 19th century prose 21 Poetry across time 22 Shakespeare</td> <td>External Assessment</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Entry code	Component	Assessment type	J352A	11 Modern prose or drama 12 19th century prose 22 Shakespeare	External Assessment	J352B	11 Modern prose or drama 21 Poetry across time 22 Shakespeare	External Assessment	J352C	12 19th century prose 21 Poetry across time 22 Shakespeare	External Assessment
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What has changed – SAMs	Detail										
<i>We have produced revised sample assessment materials (SAMs) showing the new assessment structure for autumn 2021</i>	<p>We have split the current J352/01 and J352/02 question papers into four papers. There is one question paper for each area of content.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Currently</th> <th>For 2021</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>J352/01 Section A</td> <td>J352/11 Exploring modern prose or drama</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J352/01 Section B</td> <td>J352/12 19th century prose</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J352/02 Section A</td> <td>J352/21 Exploring poetry</td> </tr> <tr> <td>J352/02 Section B</td> <td>J352/22 Shakespeare</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Currently	For 2021	J352/01 Section A	J352/11 Exploring modern prose or drama	J352/01 Section B	J352/12 19th century prose	J352/02 Section A	J352/21 Exploring poetry	J352/02 Section B	J352/22 Shakespeare
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J352/02 Section B	J352/22 Shakespeare										

What has changed – Specification

Revised Assessment Objective weightings per component for autumn 2021

Detail

As students will be assessed on 3 rather than 4 areas of study, each area of study will be weighted at 33.33% of the total GCSE, rather than at 25%.

To meet the requirement that Assessment Objective 4 (AO4) counts for 5% of the total GCSE, no matter which optional route students take, we will only be assessing AO4 in the compulsory Shakespeare component in autumn 2021.

The assessment of AO4 in the Shakespeare component will increase from 4 to 6 marks out of a total of 40 for the question so that it carries 5% weighting across the whole qualification (6/120 marks). The weighting of AO1 in Shakespeare has decreased slightly to accommodate this change. AO1 and AO2 remain the dominant assessment objectives for this question.

The assessment of AO4 will be removed from the 19th century prose component. The total number of marks for the 19th century prose question will remain at 40. The weighting of AO2 and AO3 has increased slightly to accommodate this change. AO1 and AO2 remain the dominant assessment objectives for this question.

There are no changes to the assessment objectives or their weightings in either the modern prose or drama or poetry options.

Optional route 1 J352A	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Total
Shakespeare	10%	11.67%	6.66%	5%	33.33%
Modern prose or drama	15%	11.66%	6.67%	0%	33.33%
19th century prose	11.67%	13.33%	8.33%	0%	33.33%
<i>Total</i>	36.67%	36.66%	21.66%	5%	100%

Optional route 2 J352B	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Total
Shakespeare	10%	11.67%	6.66%	5%	33.33%
Modern prose or drama	15%	11.66%	6.67%	0%	33.33%
Poetry across time	15%	18.33%	0%	0%	33.33%
<i>Total</i>	40%	41.66%	13.33	5%	100%

Optional route 3 J352C	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	Total
Shakespeare	10%	11.67%	6.66%	5%	33.33%
19th century prose	11.67%	13.33%	8.33%	0%	33.33%
Poetry across time	15%	18.33%	0%	0%	33.33%
<i>Total</i>	36.67%	43.33%	14.99%	5%	100%

Contact Us

If you would like to contact us, you can do so at:

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