

# GCSE English Language

**Exam Board:** AQA

**Exams:** 2 – both 1 hour 45 minutes long

**Skills:**

*Reading (identify, summarise, analyse, evaluate)*

*Writing (opinionated writing and writing to describe/ narrate)*

Both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are constructed in the same way:

**Q1:** *True/ False or Find 4 Things question (4 marks);*

**Q2-4:** *Increasingly challenging summative/ analytical/ evaluative questions (ranging from 8-20 marks – total = 36 marks);*

**Q5:** *Extended Written Task (40 marks).*

## **Being a confident and well-practised reader is essential**

Collect high quality extracts of texts for your child to read. Newspaper and magazine articles, opinion articles/ comment columns, descriptive writing, autobiographical writing

Help them to find 2 texts which are on the same topic but are different. Perhaps 2 different newspaper articles reporting the same event or 2 sportsperson's autobiographies. Can they find 5 similarities and 5 differences? They can think about both content (details/ ideas) and language choices.

Read the extract with your child. Get them to turn it over (face down) and tell you 5 key pieces of information they can remember OR test them by asking them quick fire true/ false questions about what they have just read.

Give them a copy of the text chopped up into individual paragraphs. Can they put the text back together again? How did they know which paragraphs came at the beginning, middle and end? Was the opening effective? Why/ why not?

Ask them to identify what the purpose of the text was. Who was it written for? Why was it written? Keeping that in mind, they should highlight the 5 key words or phrases which help the writer to achieve this purpose.

Professional writing is a great place to learn how to write well. Your child can use a good example of opinion writing (from a newspaper opinion column) as a style model to help them to write their own. They can steal sentence starters, or ideas from it to build their confidence.

## Create a glossary of terms

Encourage your child to go back through their exercise book and create a glossary of all of the terms they have used in English.

Term	Definition	Look/ cover/ write/ check practise	Use it in a sentence