



# Preparing for my **GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE** exams

## **Which syllabus am I studying?**

- Exam board: AQA
- Title: *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing and Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives*
- Specification code: 8700
- Content: Fiction and non-fiction extracts from the nineteenth through to the 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries, creative writing and transactional writing.

## **When are the exams and how long are they?**

- All exams take place during the summer term of year 11. Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

## **What is in the exams?**

- Paper 1 will require you to read and extract information from one fiction text and to analyse the writer's use of language and structure to engage the reader. You will then have to write either a narrative or descriptive piece
- For Paper 2, you will have two non-fiction texts to read, one from the nineteenth century. You will be required to synthesise and summarise information, and to consider how the writers have used language to present their points of view.

## **What do the exams (and mark schemes) look like?**

- Your class teacher will give you mock papers to practise with before the exams.
- Specimen papers will be uploaded to the website during year 11.

## **What are the key revision resources that I should be using?**

- Your exercise books and English folders are your most important revision resources.
- GCP revision guides and workbooks are also very useful.

## **What are some useful websites to help me revise?**

*Paper one and paper two:*

- BBC Bitesize English Language: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>