

English GCSE – what it entails

Two separate qualifications!

English Language

2 exams, both 1h45, both 80 marks
3x unseen sources (C19, C20, C21)

Section A: 4 questions assessing reading skills:

Comprehension

Inference

Language analysis

Structure analysis

Evaluation

Comparison

Section B: 1 question assessing writing skills:

Structuring

Vocabulary

Methodology

Accuracy & Variety

English Literature

2 exams: 1h45, 2h15
5 sections, mostly studied texts

Paper 1 (1h45, 64 marks, 40%)

Macbeth (30 + 4 for SPAG)

Jekyll and Hyde (30)

Section 2 (2h15, 96 marks, 60%)

'Modern Text' (30 + 4 for SPAG)

'Power and Conflict Poetry' (30)

Unseen Poem 1 (24)

Unseen poetry comparison (8)

Skills

Interpretation & evidencing

Analysis of writer's choices & their effects

Interpretation of contextual factors

Being prepared for English

Essential, non-negotiable:

A PEN.

A charged laptop

Also wise:

A pen which suits the student
(some prefer fountain pens, some prefer fine-liners, some prefer a biro...)

Spare pens

A pencil

A ruler

Highlighters

We can lend these things out, but it takes time and money to organise!

For Literature, it is wise to buy copies of the texts we are studying. Students can annotate their own copies and take them home for revision, they cannot annotate or take our spares.

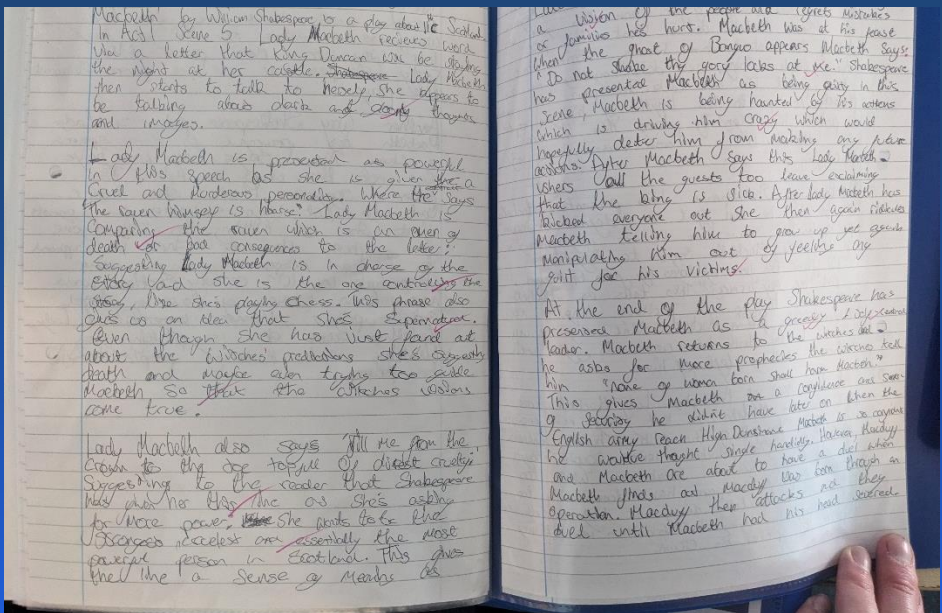
What does the 'expected standard' for work and behaviour look like in English at Perins?

"Evidence of hard work in the classroom"

Students invited to this event may not be consistently exhibiting these behaviours.

- Homework completed on time;
- Seneca scores 80% or above, and with evidence of an appropriate time spent;
- Punctual to lessons with the appropriate equipment;
- Use the time to do the task, not indulging distractions (as part of this: extended writing completed to an appropriate length *proportionate to the students' usual performance*);
- Actively engaging with lesson content including contributing to discussions.

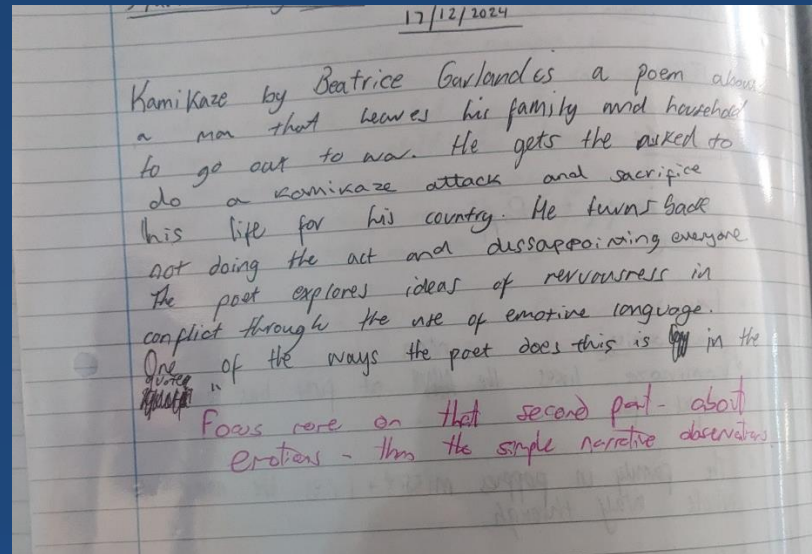
Status ^	Learning Time ^	Avg ^	W1 ^	W2 ^	W3 ^	W4 ^	W5 ^
✓	32min 28s	95%	100%	80%	75%	100%	100%
✓	7min 51s	93%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%
✓	18min 12s	96%	90%	100%	75%	100%	100%
✗	16min 36s	67%	64%	80%	100%	57%	80%
✓	10min 11s	96%	100%	80%	75%	100%	100%
✓	6min 54s	96%	100%	80%	100%	100%	100%
✓	7min 31s	77%	80%	80%	50%	67%	100%
✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
✓	13min 6s	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



What does 'below the expected standard' of work look like in English at Perins?

Students invited to this event may not be consistently exhibiting these behaviours.

✓	32min 28s	95%	100%	80%	75%	100%	100%
✓	7min 51s	93%	100%	67%	100%	100%	100%
✓	18min 12s	96%	90%	100%	75%	100%	100%
✗	16min 36s	67%	64%	80%	100%	57%	80%
✓	10min 11s	96%	100%	80%	75%	100%	100%
✓	6min 54s	96%	100%	80%	100%	100%	100%
✓	7min 31s	77%	80%	80%	50%	67%	100%
✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
✓	13min 6s	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
✗	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
✓	8min 54s	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
✓	7min 46s	97%	100%	100%	100%	80%	100%



Homework late, absent or low quality;

Late to lessons or enters in wrong frame of mind;

Quick to break silence or talk off topic, requires too many reminders to stay on task;

Does not use the time to complete the work.

+ *naughty* behaviours like rude to staff, swearing, pushing and shoving, interfering with other people's learning etc... These behaviours were not prevalent among those invited.

Provision beyond the classroom

Yr11 Revision sessions on Thursdays after school (currently yr11 only);
Books on Scopay including study guides, workbooks and revision guides;
Richly resourced Curriculum Hub and Revision Area;
Revision resources available in tutor times;
Simple homework strategy (mostly Seneca, some other work such as work booklets);
Some targeted, personalised, invitation-only provision.

The screenshot shows a OneDrive interface for a folder named 'Revision'. At the top, there are navigation options: '+ New', 'Discard changes', 'Promote', 'Page details', and 'Share'. Below this is a toolbar with '+ New', 'Upload', 'Edit in grid view', 'Share', and 'Sync'. The main area is a table of files and folders:

Name	Modified
15x GCSE Exam practice questions.docx	December 5, 2023
5x GCSE Exam practice questions J&H.docx	May 8, 2024
Chapter 2 Exam Style Task and Feedback Sheet.docx	November 8, 2018
Chapter 7 Exam Style Task and Feedback Sheet.docx	November 8, 2018
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde Revision guide improved.doc	November 8, 2018
J&H - 10 Minute Challenges.zip	November 8, 2018
J&H Useful Links.docx	November 8, 2018
Jekyll Hyde - Knowledge Organiser.pptx	November 8, 2018

The screenshot shows a OneDrive interface for a folder named 'Recommended Reading'. At the top, there are navigation options: 'Documents > Recommended Reading'. Below this is a toolbar with 'New', 'Upload', 'Edit in grid view', 'Share', and 'Sync'. The main area is a table of files and folders:

Name	Modified
Shakespeare Critical Essays	March 9, 2022
1. Black Lives Matter book list Age 13-16 fr...	June 12, 2020
2. Further BLM book recommendations.docx	June 12, 2020
How to use the anthologies.url	July 2, 2021
KS3 Poetry Anothology.pdf	July 2, 2021
KS4 Poetry Anthology.pdf	July 2, 2021
RR BIPOC.jpg	July 18, 2022
RR LGBTQ+ ing	July 18, 2022

Home provision

We recommend that students work in a productive environment – away from distractions of phone, TV, games consoles etc...

Resource the work environment as best as you're able – flashcards, coloured pens & other stationery, study guides etc...

Try to establish appropriate routines and expectations. Rest, leisure, socialising, nutrition, hydration, and exercise are all essential to effective and healthy brain functioning but need to be done meaningfully and in balance with focussed work time. The balance point is different for all students, but research suggests that the 'Pomodoro' technique is effective for most (25 minutes work, 5 minutes rest).

If you have the opportunity to take your children to the theatre or cinema, there are often good productions of the texts we study.

Whilst private tutors can be a useful addition, we often find students switch off in the classroom because they think they're getting all they need from tutors. Unfortunately, the one hour per week delivered by a non-specialist is not a replacement for the four lessons delivered by qualified and experienced practitioners; they should be seen as supplements, not alternatives, to classroom learning.