GCSE (9–1)
ENGLISH LANGUAGE J351

OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Support highlights

We know teaching has been greatly disrupted in 2020, so to support you we've collated some of our most useful resources below. This includes resources to help you focus your teaching towards individual abilities of students, resources to help determine your students' capabilities and above all resources to help save you time, enabling you to quickly get back up to speed in the classroom and support your students in preparing for exams. Many more resources are available from the OCR website.

Language and structure – Teacher guide

Download the Teacher guide

This new teacher guide covers the key reading skills needed to help students effectively analyse writers' use of language and structure. The resource takes texts and questions from our past papers and uses these as a basis for classroom activities that are broken down into exercises on language, structure and use of relevant subject terminology. Each activity includes a clear teaching focus and summary points so you can pick these up to use straight away in the classroom or set a particular exercise for homework.
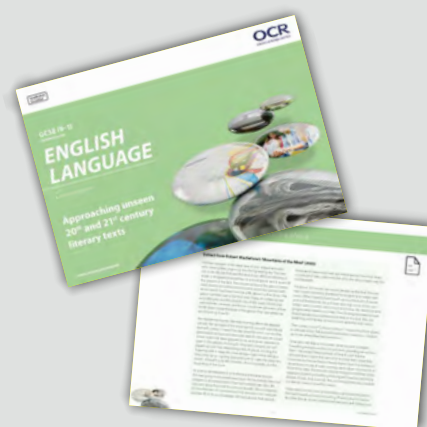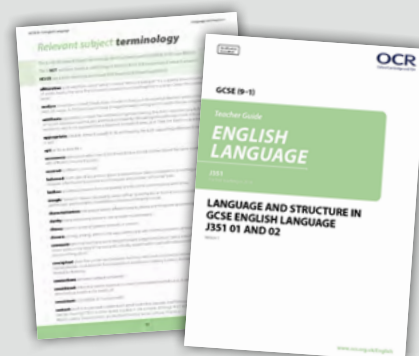
Developing extended writing skills – Delivery guide

Download the Delivery guide

This guide can be used both to recap and develop the building blocks needed for effective writing. The focus helps to ensure that students' practice and preparation includes use and organisation of content, as well as vocabulary, spelling and grammar. You can use the headings in this guide to organise activities so that students can recap and practise the full range of skills separately. The activities build towards students combining these to create engaging texts in a range of forms – tasks that you could set as homework or as part of exam preparation.

Approaching 20ᵗʰ and 21ˢᵗ century literary texts – Delivery guide

Download the Delivery guide

This guide focuses on ways to develop students' confidence to engage effectively with unseen literary texts. It offers practical suggestions using examples from a range of texts. The activities are structured around three broad sets of skills with a clear progression between each set: 'the basics', analysing and evaluating texts and comparing texts. This means you can differentiate activities to suit your students' needs, or use a particular set of activities to gauge where students are at when they return to the classroom and to develop their skill level. Activities are suitable for the classroom or for independent learning.

You may also like

Little book of spelling, punctuation and grammar – Teacher guide

This resource can be used as a handy reference tool for students and teachers. It covers key spelling, punctuation and grammar terms, recognising that language usage is constantly changing.

Exam preparation – Student guide

This guide, aimed at students, shares advice and top tips to help students focus on exam technique to do as well as they possibly can in the exams.

Assessment materials

Access past papers, mark schemes and examiners' reports from the OCR website.

New resources to support you

Instructions for using Exam Builder

This new guide provides instructions for the different ways you can construct your own question papers for Components 1 and 2 using Exam Builder. The guidance covers creation of mock papers and papers based on key skills for alternative assessments.

Student guide

This guide helps students to understand the common pitfalls in the exams and includes a revision checklist so they can keep track of the content and skills they've covered.

Professional development

Improving your delivery: Targeting strong pass performance

Access materials from our webinar to support students in improving their exam skills and in understanding what they need to do to move from Level 3 to Level 4 in the mark schemes.

Find an event

See our range of professional development courses using the 'Find an event' search tool.

We're now running all our CPD training online rather than face-to-face. Future courses will be in the form of a webinar, offering the same high-quality training as our face-to-face training. If you have any questions, please email professionaldevelopment@ocr.org.uk

Cambridge Assessment resources

Resource Plus from Cambridge International

These digital resources are now available to all OCR teachers free of charge. Resource Plus gives you access to high quality videos, ready-made lesson plans and teaching materials that you can use to help your students learn and prepare for their exams. We also offer Resource Plus materials that are designed for you to share with your students.

On here you'll find teaching packs for Reading skills (developing ideas, responding to ideas and analysing and evaluating) and Writing skills (figurative language, narrative structure and summary skills).

Publisher materials

Oxford University Press

OCR GCSE English Language Student Book 1

This OCR endorsed textbook supports students with developing the key skills needed for assessment through a range of relevant themes, ideas and activities (£17.99).

Lesson packs

OUP have put together free lesson packs, available to download from their website. The GCSE English Language packs cover a variety of reading and writing skills that are suitable for recap and practise, helping students catch up, or to support lower-attaining students.
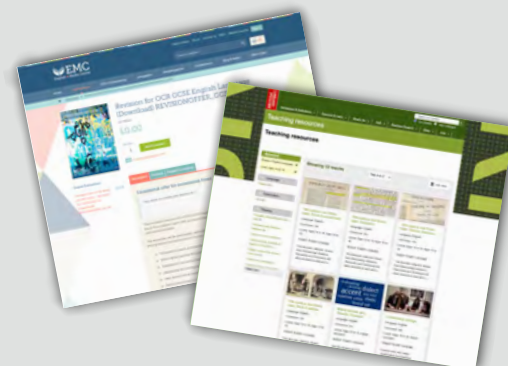
Other resources

EMC revision resources

Here you can access EMC revision packs for OCR. The GCSE English Language pack includes strategies for focusing closely on sentences, approaches for looking at structure, ideas about critical evaluation and advice on how to generate ideas for the writing tasks.

The British Library – 19th century non-fiction resources

These thematic collections of texts and sources are freely available on The British Library website. You can use these to support students in reading and understanding 19th century non-fiction texts and improve their ability to identify key features for a range of genres, audiences and purposes.

Keep connected

Creative writing in exams and in the classroom

In our blog we discuss a range of approaches for developing and improving creative writing responses.

How to prepare your students for GCSE English Language

If you're looking for more practical ideas on how to get your students ready for the exams, take a look at this blog. Here we look more closely at some of the key aspects of assessment: subject terminology, Question 4, writing tasks and non-fiction.

Tips for making the Examiners' reports work for you

As part of your exam preparation, take another look at this blog. We offer guidance to help you ensure you've taken full advantage of our Examiners' reports from previous exam series.

Get in touch

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