

# NEW A Level English Language and Literature

## H073 and H473 replacing 3829 and 7829:

### Information for OCR centres transferring to the **new specification for first teaching in 2008**

This document maps the current A Level English Language and Literature specification to the new specification for first teaching in September 2008. It includes information on the changes, support available and an outline of the new specification. It is intended to help ease the transition for Heads of Department and Teachers involved in the teaching of English Language and Literature.

The full specification is available online along with a short questionnaire enabling you to share your comments on the specification and help shape the materials developed to support it. For more information including answers to frequently asked questions visit

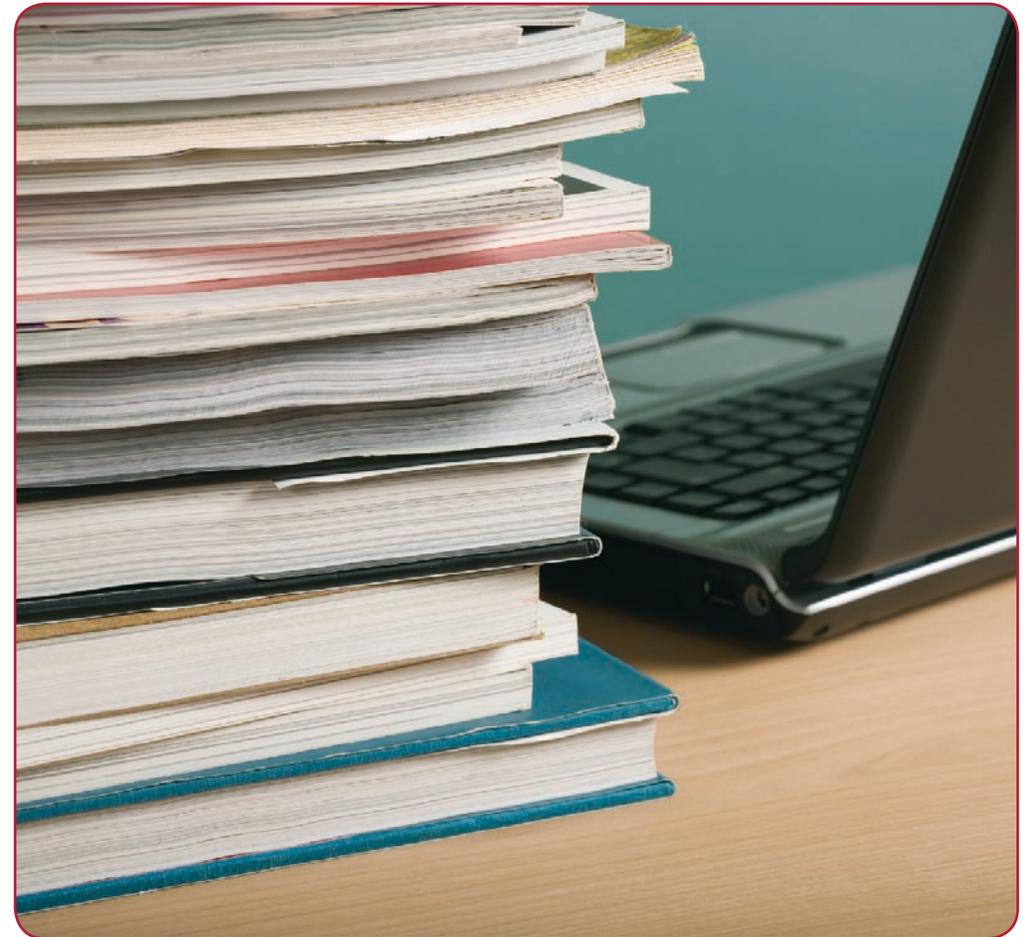
[www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels](http://www.ocr.org.uk/14-19alevels)

**Current specification – mapping the changes**

**Outline specification for first teaching September 2008**

**pages 3-4**

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**QCA have stipulated that:**

- AS Specifications should show knowledge and understanding of:
  - A range of spoken and written texts, from different times, including 2 substantial texts from one of the genres of prose, poetry, drama and at least one other substantial written text
  - Some of the key constituents of language and how they function in combination to make meaning in spoken and written English
  - How variations in language, form and context shape and change meanings in speech and writing
  - Some of the ways in which individual texts are interpreted by different readers or listeners
  - Some analytical and creative approaches to the critical study of texts, drawing on linguistic and literary methodologies and concepts
- In addition A Level specifications should require candidates to show deeper knowledge and understanding of:
  - A wider range of spoken and written texts from different times, including at least two further texts from a genre (prose, poetry, drama) not studied at AS and at least one other substantial written text
  - The significance of contextual factors in the production and reception of texts
  - How to apply linguistic and literary methodologies and concepts to inform their responses to and interpretations of texts.
- All specifications should contain clear principles for the review and updating of selected texts and materials and methods used for studying them.
- The number of units required to achieve GCE A Level is to be reduced from 6 to 4
- All specifications must have internal assessment
- Stretch and Challenge style questions to be introduced into A2 assessment

# Mapping the changes to the A Level English Language and Literature specification for first teaching September 2008



**H073 and H473 replacing 3829 and 7829.**

**Existing specification**

**Current unit title**

**Unit code**

**What remains the same?**

**What is changing?**

**Why is it changing?**

**Guidance**

**Linking Language and Literature**

**2714**  
Mandatory  
30% AS  
15% A Level  
1.25 hr Exam  
Closed book

- Elements of literary analysis
- Closed book exam
- Introduces candidates to the connections between language and literature in written and spoken texts.
- Analysis of a transcript of written speech

- Combined into unit called 'Speaking Voices'
- Understanding of genre through study of prose fiction
- Focus on the construction of voice and the creation of meaning in texts
- Weighting increased to 60% AS, 30% A Level
- 2hr written exam
- New unit code F671

- In line with QCA subject criteria
- Weighting adjusted to reflect reduction from three to two units at AS
- Refreshed approach to structure of assessment

Please see full specification and sample assessment material available on the OCR website.

**Language in Literature: Poetry and Prose**

**2715**  
Mandatory  
40% AS  
20% A Level  
1.75 hr Exam  
Open book

- Some close analysis of passage from set text
- Written exam
- A set text list remains

- Combined into unit called 'Speaking Voices'
- No specific time period requirements
- Candidates study 2 prose fiction texts from the set text list
- New set text list:  
Section A  
*Surfacing*, M Atwood  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, M Haddon  
*Hawksmoor*, P Ackroyd  
Section B  
*The Great Gatsby*, F Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Wide Sargasso Sea*, J Rhys  
*A Room with a View*, E M Forster
- Weighting increased to 60% AS, 30% A Level
- 2 hr closed book exam
- New unit code F671

- In line with QCA subject criteria
- Weighting adjusted to reflect reduction from three to two units at AS
- Changes to set texts in line with centre feedback and QCA requirements
- Closed book exam so centres may chose their own editions of texts

Please see full specification and sample assessment material available on the OCR website.

Please see specification for information on which set texts fall into which section.

**Styles of Writing**

**2716**  
Mandatory  
30% AS  
15% A Level  
Coursework

- Assessed by coursework
- Coursework folder consisting of 2 pieces of work, 3,000 words maximum.
- Task 2: Candidates produce one item of original writing and accompanying commentary

- Unit called 'Changing Texts'
- Task 1: Analytical study of one literary text and a related multimodal text e.g. blog
- Task 2: Original writing must be on a multimodal text and is accompanied by a commentary.
- Weighting increased to 40% AS, 20% A Level
- New unit code F672

- In line with QCA subject criteria to include multimodal texts
- Weighting adjusted to reflect reduction from three to two units at AS
- Refreshed focus on tasks most appropriate to A Level study

Please see full specification and sample assessment material available on the OCR website.

Existing specification					
Current unit title	Unit code	What remains the same?	What is changing?	Why is it changing?	Guidance
A2	<b>Language in Literature: Drama</b> 2717 Mandatory 15% A Level 2 hr Exam Open book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on drama</li> <li>2 hr exam</li> <li>Requirement to study two plays from different time periods</li> <li>Shakespeare included in set texts</li> <li>Assessment includes elements of form, structure and language</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Now called 'Dramatic Voices'</li> <li>Closed book exam</li> <li>Specified time periods are 'pre-1800' and 'modern'</li> <li>Candidates study two set plays, linked by a theme</li> <li>New set text list:  <i>Dr Faustus</i>, C Marlowe, with <i>The Crucible</i>, A Miller  <i>Hamlet</i>, Shakespeare with <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i>, T Stoppard  <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>, J Webster  <i>Top Girls</i>, C Churchill</li> <li>Weighting increased to 30% A Level</li> <li>New unit code F673</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with QCA subject criteria to include texts from different time periods and from a genre not studied at AS</li> <li>Time periods specified by QCA in revised subject criteria</li> <li>Weighting adjusted to reflect reduction from three to two units at A Level.</li> <li>Closed book exam so centres may chose their own editions of texts</li> </ul>	<p>Please see full specification and sample assessment material available on the OCR website.</p> <p>Please see specification for information on which set texts fall into which section.</p>
	<b>Issues in Language and Literature</b> 2718 Mandatory 15% A Level Coursework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assessed by Coursework</li> <li>Maximum word limit 3,000 words</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit called 'Connections across Texts'</li> <li>Coursework folder consisting of two pieces of work:            Task 1: Analytical study of substantial text and a selection of related texts            Task 2: A piece of creative or re-creative writing arising from the study in task 1, accompanied by a commentary</li> <li>Texts studied may fall outside of the accepted literary canon</li> <li>Weighting increased to 20% A Level</li> <li>New unit code F674</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In line with QCA subject criteria</li> <li>Provide centres with opportunity to make creative connections between a variety of texts</li> <li>Weighting adjusted to reflect reduction from three to two units at A Level.</li> </ul>	<p>Please see full specification and sample assessment material available on the OCR website.</p>
	<b>Experience into Words</b> 2719 Mandatory 20% A Level 2 hr Exam + 15mins reading time Closed book	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unit has been withdrawn in line with QCA requirements to reduce the number of units and adjust content in line with the revised subject criteria</li> </ul>			<p>Centres will be advised as to the last re-sit dates for this unit as soon as confirmation is received from QCA.</p>

	New unit title	New unit code	Benefits to me and my learners	Support
AS	<b>Speaking Voices</b>	<b>F671</b> Mandatory 60% AS 30% A Level 2hr Exam Closed book	<p>This unit focuses on the representation of individual voices that create meaning in texts ranging from prose fiction to natural speech transcript. This approach allows candidates to build an appreciation of the effects of the narrative voice in prose fiction.</p> <p>Study of two prose fiction set texts also enables candidates to gain deeper understanding of the genre, building on skills acquired at GCSE.</p> <p>Candidates gain an understanding of the significance of form, structure and language in creating meaning</p>	<p>OCR is currently developing teacher support, programmes of INSET and working closely with publishers to deliver support to accompany the new specification. More information on support will appear after QCA accreditation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance within specification</li> <li>• Coursework Guidance</li> <li>• Schemes of Work</li> <li>• Lesson Plans</li> <li>• Sample Assessment Material</li> </ul>
AS	<b>Changing texts</b>	<b>F672</b> Mandatory 40% AS 20% A Level Coursework	<p>This unit focuses on the study of multimodal texts e.g. website pages that combine different modes of communication - speech, writing, sound and image to create meaning. This provides centres with an opportunity to engage candidates through the use of a variety of new and different materials.</p> <p>Candidates have the opportunity to explore such media independently as they build their coursework portfolio, and can explore their own creativity through the re-creative task with commentary.</p>	
A2	<b>Dramatic Voices</b>	<b>F673</b> Mandatory 30% A Level 2hr Exam Closed book	<p>This unit focuses on the representation of power relationships through the genre of drama. Candidates can study two works in relation to each other and explore connections in the context of an engaging and appealing theme.</p> <p>Teachers and candidates are given the opportunity to examine traditional texts coupled with a related more modern text. The pairing of texts is designed to encourage a consideration of works and themes from new and alternative angles.</p>	
A2	<b>Connections across Texts</b>	<b>F674</b> Mandatory 20% A Level Coursework	<p>The focus of this unit is the study of texts in relation to notions of value, status and classification.</p> <p>Teachers and candidates have the freedom to choose influential or culturally significant works which may fall outside of the accepted literary canon. This provides candidates with the opportunity to study topics of a personal interest.</p> <p>For example candidates could consider fairness and rules as portrayed in Tom Brown's School Days, WWI poetry and live sports commentary. This approach enables candidates to further develop integrated linguistic and literary skills and aims to deepen candidates enjoyment and interest in English.</p> <p>Linked to this candidates also write their own creative piece thus developing and enhancing their skills as producers and interpreters of language.</p>	

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FS 27093