

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Cambridge International Examinations (CIE) in the UK and USA

With effect from the June 2003 examination Cambridge International Examinations will only accept entries in the UK and USA from students registered on courses at CIE registered Centres.

UK and USA private candidates will not be eligible to enter CIE examinations unless they are repatriating from outside the UK/USA and are part way through a course leading to a CIE examination. In that case a letter of support from the Principal of the school which they had attended is required. Other UK and USA private candidates should not embark on courses leading to a CIE examination after June 2003.

This regulation applies only to entry by private candidates in the UK and USA. Entry by private candidates through Centres in other countries is not affected.

Further details are available from Customer Services at Cambridge International Examinations.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE
GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level 8693

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NOTE

Additional copies of this syllabus and/or the accompanying specimen paper booklet can be ordered from CIE Publications.

INTRODUCTION

This syllabus is designed to allow progression from GCE O Level or IGCSE syllabuses in English Language.

Candidates offering English Language may **not** also offer Language and Literature in English.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ADVANCED SUBSIDIARY

AIMS

To encourage:

- A critical and informed response to writing in a range of forms, styles and contexts.
- The interdependent skills of reading, analysis and communication.
- Effective and appropriate communication.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

Candidates for English Language will be required to demonstrate:

- Ability to read with understanding written material in a variety of forms, and to comment on its effectiveness.
- Knowledge and understanding of features of English language.
- Ability to write clearly, accurately and effectively for a particular purpose or audience.

SPECIFICATION GRID

The relationship between the assessment objectives and components of the scheme of assessment is indicated in the table below.

Assessment Objective	Paper 1	Paper 2
i	✓	
ii	✓	✓
iii	✓	✓

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT – ENGLISH LANGUAGE

	Duration of Examination	Weighting of Papers
Paper 1 Passages for Comment	2 hrs	50%
<i>and</i>		
Paper 2 Composition	2 hrs	50%

DESCRIPTION OF PAPERS – ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1

Passages for Comment (2 hours)

Candidates will answer two questions from a choice of three. Questions carry equal marks.

Each question will be based on a passage, or passages, of text printed in the question paper. These will be taken from a balanced range of sources, and will include informative and narrative writing in a wide variety of styles.

Each question will involve a commentary on use of language in the passage(s) followed by a directed writing task based on the passage(s).

Candidates should be able to identify distinguishing features of passages, and to relate them to the function and context of the writing, and to organise information in their answers. They should be able to comment on aspects such as vocabulary, figurative language (e.g. use of metaphor and simile), word-ordering and sentence structure, formality/informality of tone, and the communication of attitudes, bias or prejudice. In the directed writing tasks they should demonstrate the ability to write for a specific purpose and/or audience using appropriate vocabulary, tone, and style.

Dictionaries may **not** be used.

Paper 2

Composition (2 hours)

The paper will be divided into two sections: Section A: Narrative/Descriptive/Imaginative Writing and Section B: Discursive/Argumentative Writing. There will be a choice of four composition tasks in each section. Candidates will attempt two tasks, one taken from each section. Questions carry equal marks. Candidates should write between 600 – 900 words for each composition.

In both sections, candidates are required to demonstrate accurate use of language in an appropriate style, clearly presented. In addition in Section A candidates should demonstrate the ability to write an imaginative piece, using language to create deliberate effects, such as creating a mood or creating a character; in Section B candidates should demonstrate the ability to construct an argument, presenting a view or views clearly, coherently and persuasively.

Dictionaries may **not** be used.

RESOURCE LIST

BOOKS (LITERATURE AND LANGUAGE)

Please note that this is NOT a list of prescribed texts, but rather a list of suggestions of materials that teachers may find of general interest and help in delivering Advanced Level courses.

Peter Abbs and John Richardson, *The Forms of Narrative: A Practical Guide*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521371597)

Peter Abbs and John Richardson, *The Forms of Poetry: A Practical Guide*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521371600)

John Brown and Terry Gifford, *Teaching A Level English Literature: A Student Centred Approach* (ISBN 041501641X)

C J Brumfit and R A Carter, ed, *Literature and Language Teaching*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 0198314434)

Steven Croft and Helen Cross, *A Practical Guide to Advanced Level Literature* (ISBN 0198314434)

Patrick Dias and Mike Hayhoe, *Developing Response to Poetry*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335158331)

Rex Gibson, *Teaching Shakespeare*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521577888)

Simon Greenall and Michael Swan, *Effective Reading Skills: Reading Skills for Advanced Students*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521317592)

Sue Hackman and Barbara Marshall, *Into Literature: A Bridging Course to Advanced Study*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340647)

George Keith and John Shuttleworth, *Living Language: Original Writing*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340730803)

Victor J Lee, *English Literature in Schools*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335152467)

John Lennard, *The Poetry Handbook*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 0198711492)

John McRae and Roy Boardman, *Reading Between the Lines: Integrated Language and Literature Activities*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521277906; 0521277892)

Andrew Mayne and John Shuttleworth, *Considering Drama*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340381949)

Andrew Mayne and John Shuttleworth, *Considering Prose*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340327555)

Macolm Peet and David Robinson, *Leading Questions: A Course in Literary Appreciation*, Nelson (ISBN 017432379)

Rob Pope, *The English Studies Book*, Longman (ISBN 04151287676)

Robert Protherough, *Developing Response to Fiction*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335104050)

Robert Protherough, *Teaching Literature for Examinations*, Open University Press (ISBN 0335150764)

Don Shiach, *Prose and Poetry – The Reading of the Text*, Cambridge University Press (ISBN 0521498945)

John Shuttleworth, *Living Language: Editorial Writing*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0340730846)

Cambridge Students Guides: Shakespeare

(detailed commentaries, background information, aspects of language, critical approaches, help with exam responses)

e.g. Clamp, *Much Ado About Nothing* (ISBN 0521 00824 7)
 Mason, *Othello* (ISBN 0521 00811 5)
 Mills, *As You Like It* (ISBN 0521 00821 2)
 Siddall, *Macbeth* (ISBN 0521 00826 3)

Croft/Cross, *Literature, Criticism and Style*, Oxford University Press (ISBN 0 198 31473 6)

(Although designed for Home Centres AS and A, this has much useful material, together with activities)

S. Jeffrey, *Do Brilliantly at AS English Language/Literature*, Collins (ISBN 0 00 712606 9)

Lowe/Graham *English Language Made Easy*, The Writers and Readers Collective (ISBN 0 86316 0)

(Accessible, pictorial, entertaining)

Ed. Martin, *Teaching Literature 11 – 18*, Bloxedge

(Recommended for teachers)

Montgomery/Durant/Fabb/Furniss/Mills, *Ways of Reading*, Routledge (ISBN 0 415 05320 X)

(Advanced level, broad range, lots of activities, imaginative and inspiring)

Ed. Rylance and Simons, *Literature in Context*, Palgrave

(Contributes to the discussion of context and what it means for AS and A Level study)

Seeley, *The Grammar Guide*, Heinemann, (ISBN 0 435 101978)

(accessible, can be used by teachers or students)

Turner, *Issues and Skills for A Level English*, Hodder and Stoughton (ISBN 0 340 688319)

(Very useful material for Language and Literature designed for the old AEB L/L syllabus)

The Casebook series (McMillan, now Palgrave)

The New Casebook Series (McMillan, now Palgrave)

The McMillan Master Guides (less scholarly than above but useful for AS)

The How to Study series (ditto)

(This long established series covers most of the well known classic works in the syllabus.)

Longman Critical Essays (ed. Cookson and Loughrey) seem regrettably to be out of print

Penguin Critical Studies (ed. Loughrey) ditto

These series are worth looking out for.

WEBSITES

Chaucer/Middle English/Renaissance/Shakespeare/Metaphysicals/17th Century

www.luminarium.org

Mr William Shakespeare and the Internet

<http://shakespeare.palomar.edu>

(user-friendly site with many excellent links)

Shakespeare

www.penguinclassics.com/Features

Victorians

www.victoriandatabase.com

20th Century British Drama

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/index.asp/Literature>

American Literature

<http://xroads.Virginia.edu/>

(with specific pages on Fitzgerald, Frost, Faulkner, Plath, etc.)

Caribbean Literature

www.hwcn.org/-aa462/cariblit.html

Caryl Churchill

www.cwrl.utexas.edu/-sbowen/314fall/drama

Soyinka, Gordimer, Walcott

www.nobel.sc/index.html

(Nobel prizewinners' site)

Pinter

www.haroldpinter.org

Stoppard

www.sff.net/people/mberry/stoppard.hpt

Literature Resources

www.literature.proquestlearning.co.uk

(You need to subscribe to ProQuest, but it does have a very wide range of resources; references mostly. Teachers' Activities refer to AOs and Key Skills, but actual activities suggested are general rather than particular)

www.actis.co.uk

(This site also requires your organisation to register)

CD-ROM

Shakespeare: His Life, Times and Works (Sussex Publications, microworld@ndirect.co.uk)

A companion to Shakespeare studies with useful original documents, background materials

AUDIOTAPES

Shakespeare: Discussions between academics (23 plays in series)

Critical discussions and actors' rehearsals of key scenes and speeches

Poetry/The Novel: Discussions between academics (40 subjects in series)

(Sussex Publications, as above)