

GCSE English Literature Unit 2

Frequently asked questions

1. General questions about the unit

How long should students spend on each question?

The paper is 1 hour 30 minutes with two sections: Unseen Poem and Anthology Poems. Students need to look at the number of marks available for each section and allocate the time accordingly. Students are advised to spend 35-40 minutes on the Unseen Poem question and 45-55 minutes on the Anthology Poems questions.

Should students worry about filling out the booklet correctly and can they use extra sheets of paper?

It is important that your students are happy and familiar with the layout and the rubric of the papers before the examination. Please encourage them to make all notes in the answer booklet and avoid attaching extra pages. All of our answer booklets have been made longer so there is more than enough room for students to write their responses.

It is also useful for the examiners if students write in the correct sections and number their answers clearly and correctly.

All the answer booklets are online at www.english10.co.uk.

I know that fixed grade boundaries cannot be given for each paper, but do you have any idea of what percentage is needed to achieve a grade C?

See the table below for the grade boundaries for each unit. These are the raw mark boundaries and are correct for June 2011 ONLY and should NOT be used as a guide to inform future series. Grade boundaries do alter from series to series.

Unit Code	Unit Name	Max mark	Grade Boundary Mark								
			A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
5EH01	English/English Language 1	40	36	33	28	23	18	13	9	5	0
5EH2F	English 2	96				65	50	35	20	5	0
5EH2H	English 2	96	82	69	51	33	21	15			0
5EH03	English 3	96	79	71	63	55	42	29	16	3	0
5EN2F	English Language 2	64				41	31	21	11	5	0
5EN2H	English Language 2	64	54	44	32	21	16	13			0
5EN03	English Language 3	96	87	79	68	58	47	36	25	14	0
5ET1F	English Literature 1	80				53	39	25	12	6	0
5ET1H	English Literature 1	80	70	60	47	34	26	22			0
5ET2F	English Literature 2	50				40	30	21	12	3	0
5ET2H	English Literature 2	50	38	31	24	18	12	9			0
5ET03	English Literature 3	50	45	41	34	27	20	14	8	2	0

2. Section A: Unseen Poem

What are the 'rules' for the Unseen Poem? What can students expect?

The unseen poem is different for Foundation and Higher tier. Both poems are contemporary with accessible language and are unlikely to require an accompanying glossary of words or phrases. It also always fits onto one side of the examination paper.

How much terminology do students need to know?

As with the language questions, it is not essential for students to have a knowledge of language features and terminology. The question focuses on how the writer uses language to create effects. Students are required to talk about the meaning of the poem and how the writer creates this meaning by using short apt quotations and backing up their comments with evidence from the poem. It is more important that they talk about the language and how it creates effect. They should avoid 'feature spotting'.

3. Section B: Anthology Poems

How much comparison is needed in part (b) of the Anthology Poems question? Does it need to be equal?

Students are asked to compare a named poem with EITHER another named poem from the Anthology OR a poem of their choice from the Anthology. As you can see from the exemplars on the website, students compare the poems by picking out the similarities and differences. As they will have written about the named poem in the first question, it may be that their answers to the part (b) question are more heavily weighted towards the 'new' poem.

Can students reuse material from part (a) in part (b)?

Yes. The question paper does instruct them to do this and students should be encouraged to make the same points in comparison to another poem in part (b). They should refer to the point again in full for part (b) as the examiner may not be able to see their answer to part (a).