



OXFORD OPEN
L E A R N I N G

English Language IGCSE





IGCSE

English Language

**English
IGCSE**

General Introduction

Welcome to your IGCSE English course. We hope you enjoy studying with us!

This course of lessons will prepare you for the English Language IGCSE Specification A (4EA0) syllabus set by Edexcel.

The examinations (set for first examination in June 2011) take place in January and June each year.

Course Aims

As well as effective preparation for these exams, this course has the following aims:

- To prepare you for A-level English study
- To foster a love of language and literature in all its forms
- To enable you to communicate effectively in a wide variety of other subjects and situations.



Oxford Open Learning

The Course

The Oxford Open Learning English IGCSE course is set out as follows (reading references are given within the particular lessons):

Module One: Personal Experience

Lesson One: Writing about Yourself
Lesson Two: How it is told
Lesson Three: Imaginary Experiences

Tutor-marked Assignment A

Module Two: Poetry and Prose

Lesson Four: Poetic Form
Lesson Five: Real or Imaginary?
Lesson Six: Comparing Different Versions of an Event

Tutor-marked Assignment B

Lesson Seven: Plot and Setting
Lesson Eight: Character and Dialogue

Tutor-marked Assignment C

Module Three: Essay Technique

Lesson Nine: Persuasion
Lesson Ten: Paragraphing
Lesson Eleven: Planning Essays
Lesson Twelve: Points of View
Lesson Thirteen: Constructing an Argument

Tutor-marked Assignment D

Module Four: Reading and Response

Lesson Fourteen: Reports and Brochures
Lesson Fifteen: Newspapers and Advertisements

Tutor-marked Assignment E

Lesson Sixteen: Writing from Other Cultures and Traditions
Lesson Seventeen: More Writing from Other Cultures and Traditions

Tutor-marked Assignment F

Module Five: Context and Form

Lesson Eighteen: Reading: Context and Images
Lesson Nineteen: Reading: New Media
Lesson Twenty: Structure in a Text

Tutor-marked Assignment G

Module Six: Anthology Texts

Lesson 21: Anthology Texts: Introduction

Anthology Worksheets 1-9
Anthology Worksheets 10-19
Tutor-marked Assignment H:

Revision
Tutor-marked Assignment I: Mock Exam Paper 1
Tutor-marked Assignment J: Mock Exam Paper 2
Glossary

The Edexcel Anthology

You will need to download your own copy of the Anthology from the Edexcel website. This is available at:

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/eng/eng-langa/Pages/default.aspx>

On that webpage you will see a link to 'Anthology – English Language A and English Literature' and another link to 'Anthology - Your Guide to Beach Safety – RNLI leaflet – On the Beach'. You will need to click on both links to download both leaflets' You can save these to your own computer, or print off copies onto paper. If you find this impossible, please contact your Student Adviser.

N.B. Your exam will only refer to the section of the leaflet 'Your Guide to Beach Safety' that is included in the Anthology. It will not refer to the other sections that appear in the complete leaflet available as a separate download from the website.

The Structure within each Lesson: How to Study

Front Page

The front page of each lesson shows:

- **The title.**
- **Aim(s)** for the lesson. These set out the position that you should reach after working through the lesson; keep these in mind while reading the lesson material.
- **Context.** This gives a very brief summary and shows how the lesson fits in with the rest of the course. In the Anthology Worksheets, the Context section provides context for the extract or poem included in that lesson.
- **Note.** This indicates specific reading or writing materials needed for the lesson.


Lesson Notes

There then follow the notes; these present the subject material to be studied in the lesson. Read these through carefully several times until you feel that you have understood the broad outline of the theory involved, and then tackle any reading references.

Activities

For most of this course the work that you will be doing will not be sent to your tutor; it will consist of Activities; these will aid your learning and allow you to check that you are taking in what you have been reading. The important thing to remember is that none of the work that you do in these activities is wasted: all of it will contribute to helping you develop skills, which will later be assessed in your examination. Your activities will give you necessary practice, and careful work on these will contribute more to your eventual performance and success than any other aspect of the course.

Activities are indicated as follows:

Activity 7	Suppose that the speaker of the passage you have just read is a child; collect all the evidence you can from the passage to suggest this and list it.
	

The pencil symbol indicates that you should make your own notes in the space provided (though, of course, you may prefer to make them separately).

Where do I find the Answers to Activities?

This varies. Some Activities do not have answers at all because they are too open-ended and their purpose is that you should produce a response which is personal to you.

However, most Activities do have 'suggested' answers. These are not the *only* 'correct' answers but they may help you to see how you could improve your own work. Some of these suggested answers are to be found at the end of the lesson and some immediately following the activity.

You may be tempted to peek at the answer to the activity before you have made a proper attempt at it. This is to be avoided at all costs. You must discipline yourself *not* to read the next section of a lesson until you have done the activity. To help you manage this we have put the activities in boxes. Think of these boxes as red lights; do not approach them until you are ready to give the activity your best shot, and do not pass them until you have completed the activity.

Reading the answers too early will not be helpful for a number of reasons. The specimen answer tackles the problem in a certain way, and if you have not made your own attempt yet, you will tend to think that that is the only way to do it. There will be other ways, and it is best if you can find one of your own. Remember that the answer is just a 'specimen' or 'suggested' answer.

Self-Assessment Tests

When you feel that you have mastered the topics and completed the activities, tackle any Self-Assessment Tests at the end of the lesson (these are not present in every lesson). The answers to these can be found at the end of each module. Again, do not be tempted to cheat by looking at the answers. This would give you less chance of doing well on the Tutor-marked Assignments and on the coursework.

Tutor-marked Assignments

After every two or three lessons there is a Tutor-marked Assignment. These are presented in a style similar to that of IGCSE level examination questions and should be carried out under timed conditions to give you the best chance of examination practice. These tests will thoroughly check your understanding of the previous few topics. You should send your answers to these tests to your tutor, who will return your marked script together with a set of suggested answers.

Anthology Worksheets

Part Two of the course focuses in detail on the Anthology texts. Lesson 21 includes general points to consider when studying these texts. This is followed by nineteen Anthology worksheets (nine for Section A and ten for Section B), one for each of the specified texts. As with the Self-Assessment Tests, there is a set of answers to the worksheets at the end of the module.

Mock Exam

Finally there is a mock exam (TMA I and TMA J) to prepare you for your IGCSE examination papers.

The Edexcel Specification

You will be taking Edexcel English Language IGCSE (Specification A) (4EA0). IGCSE stands for International General Certificate of Secondary Education. This is very similar to the GCSE (set in the UK) except that it's more international!

The Edexcel specification contains a great deal of information on the aims and assessment of the English course, and also includes a specimen assessment paper. It is essential that you get hold of your own copy of the specification for the year in which you expect to take the examination. Copies are available from Edexcel at the following address:

Edexcel, 190 High Holborn, London WC1V 7BH

A copy of the specification can also be downloaded from Edexcel's website (www.edexcel.com). Make sure that you get the right year and specification number!

The Written Examinations

Assessment summary

Assessment is 100% by written examination paper (Paper 1 and Paper 2), set and marked by Edexcel.

- Paper 1 is externally assessed through a two-hour 15 minute examination paper (including reading time)

AND

- Paper 2 is externally assessed through a one-hour 30 minute examination paper.

Standard English

The specification assesses reading and writing in the internationally recognised forms of Standard English; either British or American standard forms are acceptable in the students' writing. Spelling must be consistent, whether it follows British or American usage.

Paper 1

To be taken by all students.

Content Overview

Reading

Questions to test understanding of an **unprepared** reading passage and a passage from Section A of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature*. All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to meet assessment objectives, AO2 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Writing

A short task based on the topic of the Section A reading passage, and a task to test writing to inform, explain, describe. All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to meet assessment objectives, AO3 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Assessment Overview

- The assessment of this unit is through a two-hour and 15 minute examination paper (including reading time), set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- Three sections on the paper — Section A, Section B and Section C.
- The total number of marks available is 60.

Detailed Content

Paper 1 assesses 70% of the total English Language (Specification A) qualification and assesses Reading (35%) and Writing (35%). There will be **three** sections on the paper. Students are advised to allocate equal time to each section of the paper.

Section A

There will be questions on an unprepared non-fiction reading passage printed on the examination paper.

- Questions will test factual comprehension, inference and an understanding of how writers use language, as well as evaluation of how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve effects.
- Students will answer all questions in this section.

- This section addresses Assessment Objective (AO) 2 (i), (ii) and (iii) (see below for information).
- Total of 20 marks for this reading section.

Section B

This section will have **two** compulsory questions.

One question will test understanding of a passage from Section A of the anthology.

This question will test the student's ability to develop interpretations of the text supported by reference to the text.

This question addresses AO2 (i) and is worth 10 marks — Reading.

One question will be a writing task, based on the topic of the reading passage in the first question of this section.

This question addresses AO3 (i), (ii) and (iii) and is worth 10 marks — Writing.

Total of 20 marks for this section, reading (10 marks) and writing (10 marks).

Section C

One question will be set in this section to test the students' ability of writing to inform, explain, describe.

This section addresses AO3 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Total of 20 marks for this writing section.

Paper 2: Content Overview

Reading

A question to test understanding of Section B of the *Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature*. All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to meet assessment objectives AO2 (i) and (ii).

Writing

A choice of tasks to test writing to explore, imagine, entertain and writing to argue, persuade, advise. All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to meet assessment objectives AO3 (i), (ii) and (iii).

Assessment Overview

- The assessment of this unit is through a one-hour and 30 minute examination paper, set and marked by Edexcel.
- Single tier of entry.
- The total number of marks available is 30.

Detailed Content

Paper 2 assesses 30% of the total English Language (Specification A) qualification and assesses Reading (15%) and Writing (15%).

The paper consists of **two** questions. Students are advised to allocate equal time to each section of the paper.

Question 1

One question which will test understanding of one piece from Section B of the anthology.

This question addresses AO2 (i) and (iii). There are a total of 15 marks for this reading question.

Question 2

There will be a choice of topics testing writing to explore, imagine, entertain and writing to argue, persuade, advise.

Students choose **one** topic.

This question addresses AO3 (i), (ii) and (iii). There are a total of 15 marks for this writing question.

Examzone

You may find Edexcel's Examzone helpful. The Examzone website is aimed at students sitting external examinations and gives information on revision, advice from examiners and guidance on results, including re-marking, re-sitting and progression opportunities. Further services for students — many of which will also be of interest to parents — are being added all the time. Links to this site can be found on the Exexcel website's main homepage at www.examzone.co.uk.

Assessment Objectives

When marking exams, examiners assess whether students have demonstrated their ability to meet a set of agreed aims for IGCSE level. These aims, called **assessment objectives**, are set out on the Edexcel website. Below is an extract from the assessment objectives for English Language (Specification A) (4EAO) that apply to candidates being assessed by 100% written examination (this includes all private candidates).

This course is designed to ensure that in your reading and writing you will study and undertake assignments that develop your ability to achieve these objectives.

AO2: Reading

The range of reading provided should include fiction and non-fiction texts, and should include texts from a variety of cultures and traditions. The range and purpose for reading should be wide, including reading for pleasure and reading to retrieve particular information for study purposes.

All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to:

- (i) read with insight and engagement, making appropriate reference to texts and developing and sustaining interpretations of them
- (ii) follow an argument, distinguishing between fact and opinion
- (iii) understand and make some evaluation of how writers use linguistic and structural devices to achieve their effects.

50%

AO3: Writing

Students must be provided with opportunities to write in a wide range of forms and genres to:

- explore, imagine, entertain
- inform, explain, describe
- argue, persuade, advise.

All students will be required to demonstrate an ability to:

- (i) communicate clearly and imaginatively, using and adapting forms for different readers and purposes
- (ii) organise ideas into sentences, paragraphs and whole texts using a variety of linguistic and structural features
- (iii) use a range of sentence structures effectively, with accurate punctuation and spelling.

50%

The Anthology

Students studying the Edexcel IGCSE in English Language (Specification A) must study all the texts in **Section A** of this anthology in preparation for **Paper 1** where they will be tested for Reading and Writing. Copies of this anthology must not be taken into the examination, the anthology text set for the paper will be reprinted on the examination paper.

Students must study all the texts in **Section B** of this anthology in preparation for **Paper 2** where they will be tested for Reading. Copies of this anthology must not be taken into the examination, the anthology text set for the paper will be reprinted on the examination paper.

Anthology Texts for English Language (Specification A)

Contents of Section A Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature

From *Touching the Void* — Joe Simpson

Your Guide to Beach Safety — RNLI leaflet

'Climate Change: The Facts' — (adapted from an article by Kate Ravilious in *The Guardian Science Course*)

From *A Game of Polo with a Headless Goat* — Emma Levine

From *A Passage to Africa* — George Alagiah

From *The Explorer's Daughter* — Kari Herbert

'Explorers, or Boys Messing About...' — Steven Morris (*The Guardian*)

From *Taking on the World* — Ellen MacArthur

From *Chinese Cinderella* — Adeline Yen Mah

Contents of Section B Edexcel Anthology for IGCSE English Language (Specification A) and IGCSE English Literature

'Disabled' — Wilfred Owen
'“Out, Out”' — Robert Frost
'Refugee Blues' — W H Auden
'An Unknown Girl' — Moniza Alvi
'Electricity Comes to Cocoa Bottom' — Marcia Douglas
'The Last Night' (from *Charlotte Gray*) — Sebastian Faulks
'Veronica' — Adewale Maja-Pearce
'The Necklace' — Guy de Maupassant
'A Hero' — R K Narayan
'King Schahriar and his brother' (extract from *The Arabian Nights*)

Handbook for Private Candidates

Edexcel publishes a general Handbook for Private Candidates on its website at

<http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/private.aspx>

This includes useful information on registering at a test centre for your examination.

Using the Internet

All students would benefit from access to the Internet. You will find a wealth of information on all the topics in your course. As well as the Edexcel website (www.edexcel.com), you should get into the habit of checking the Oxford Open Learning site (www.ool.co.uk) where you may find news, additional resources and interactive features as time goes by. If you have not already done so, you may register for your free copy of *How to Study at Home*, our 200-page guide to home learning, or enrol on further courses. Put it on your Favourites list now!

And Finally...

Good luck with the course!

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