



Malet Lambert English Department
Making the most out of Language Revision

Language is easier to revise and prepare for than the Literature GCSE.

There are a total of **ten questions** that make up the Language GCSE: five questions on Language Paper One and five questions on Language Paper Two.

The **wording** of these questions and **skills required** to answer these questions effectively **are very similar** every year.

The only things that significantly change are the **fiction (Paper One)** and **non-fiction (Paper Two)** sources that AQA provides.

What are the BIG questions?

Question Five on both Paper 1 and Paper 2 are both worth **40 marks!**

These two questions combined are worth 50% of the Language GCSE.


Paper 1, Q5 asks pupils to write a piece of **narrative** or **descriptive writing** based on an image that AQA will provide. For example:

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Your local newspaper is running a creative writing competition and the best entries will be published.

Either

Write a description of a fishing village, as suggested by this picture:



or

Write a story about an unlikely friendship.

(24 marks for content and organisation
16 marks for technical accuracy)
[40 marks]

Paper 2, Q5 asks pupils **to write a speech** based on a statement that AQA will provide. For example:

'Cars are convenient, comfortable and save time. However, we need to use them less by making public transport such as trains, trams and buses cheaper, more reliable and easier to access.'

Write a speech to be given at a meeting of your local council in which you argue your point of view on this statement.

How can we prepare for these BIG questions on Paper 1 and Paper 2?

Practice makes permanent regarding the skills required.

The **good news** is that the mark schemes that they use for both papers are **exactly the same!**

AQA are looking for:

Effective use of linguistic features / language features
Effective use of structural features
Appropriate use of ambitious vocabulary with accurate spelling
Paragraphed ideas
Accurate and varied punctuation
Compelling and well-structured pieces of writing.

The more our pupils practice the above skills (in class and at home) the more confident they will become!

What about the other questions on Paper One and Two?

The advice pupils are given in class to write effective responses for the other eight questions will differ slightly from teacher to teacher.

I would recommend asking pupils to speak to their teacher if they are a little unsure about a question on either paper.

How can I help my child revise for these Language papers?

Pupils can ask for an array of **Language past papers** from their teachers to **rehearse the skills required** for the ten questions.

Pupils should begin by answering these exam questions **without the pressure of time**. The important thing is to **get the skills right for each question!**

Once confidence grows, pupils should **begin to time themselves** in order to put themselves in **exam like conditions**.

A '**Y11 Homework and Revision**' club is held every **Tuesday lunch with Mr Fraser in room 1156**. In this club, **pupils can ask for help with Language or Literature GCSE questions or bring any timed responses from home for instant feedback**.

AQA like to give pupils sources from well known authors/newspapers. You could encourage your child to read articles, topical opinion pieces and short stories to prepare and familiarise themselves with the quality of writing they will need to read in the exam.

Some Useful Websites:

PMT – <https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/past-papers/gcse-english-language/>

Packed with 24 past papers for Language Paper 1 and 2

Mr Bruff YouTube videos – Bitesize videos on each question. Simply search 'Mr Bruff' on YouTube.