Subject: Year 10 English Language 1 Contact: Ms Peterson

Structure of the exam:

- 1 paper – AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks in total
- Section A – Reading: 40 marks (Questions 1–4)
- Section B – Writing: 40 marks (Question 5)
- You are advised to spend approximately 15 minutes reading the source, 45 minutes on Section A and 45 minutes on Section B

Topics and Questions covered in the exam:

Section A – Reading

- Q1 (4 marks): Retrieval – four multiple-choice questions based on the first part of the source. Read the specified lines and tick the correct answer. 1 mark each.
- Q2 (8 marks): Language – how does the writer use language to describe or present something in a specified extract? Comment on words and phrases, language features and techniques, and sentence forms.
- Q3 (8 marks): Structure – how has the writer structured the whole text to interest the reader? You could comment on what the writer focuses on at the beginning, how and why the focus changes, and any other structural features that interest you.
- Q4 (20 marks): Evaluation – a statement is given about a specified part of the source. To what extent do you agree? You must use evidence from the text and explain the methods the writer uses to create effects.

Section B – Writing

- Q5: Extended creative writing — choice of description or story opening (40 marks)
- 24 marks for content and organisation
- 16 marks for technical accuracy

How you are assessed

Assessment Objectives:

Section A u2014 Reading		
AO	**Assessed in**	**What it means**
AO1	Q1 and Q4	Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. Select and synthesise evidence from different texts.
AO2	Q2, Q3 and Q4	Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views.
AO4	Q4	Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.

Section B Writing		
AO	**Assessed in**	**What it means**
AO5	Q5 (24 marks)	Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts.
AO6	Q5 (16 marks)	Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement constitutes 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

Essential subject revision:

Type of revision	Resources needed	Time required
Language Analysis Practice Practise analysing unseen extracts. Focus on the effect of specific words and techniques on the reader.	Past AQA Paper 1 sources and mark schemes AQA GCSE English Language – BBC Bitesize	45 minutes
Creative Writing Practice Practise planning and writing a timed description or story opening. Focus on vocabulary, imagery and sentence variety.	Class writing models and notes Creative writing – AQA GCSE English Language – BBC Bitesize	45 minutes

Year 10 English Language — Exam Question Guide

Section A — Reading		
Question	**What it asks you to do**	**Top tip**
Q1 (4 marks) Multiple-choice retrieval	Read the specified lines. Tick the correct answer for each short question. One mark each.	The answer is always in the text. Re-read the lines carefully before ticking.
Q2 (8 marks) Language analysis	Analyse how the writer uses language in a specified extract. Comment on words, phrases, language features and sentence forms.	Quote first, then analyse the effect on the reader. Aim for at least three separate points with different techniques.
Q3 (8 marks) Structural analysis	Explain how the writer has structured the whole text to interest the reader. Think about the whole text, not just language.	Consider: how the text begins and ends, shifts in focus, changes in pace, perspective or setting. Do not just comment on language features.

Q4 (20 marks) Critical evaluation	Read a statement about the text. Decide how far you agree or disagree and explain your view with evidence from the text.	This is your highest-mark reading question. Write at least four developed paragraphs. Use a range of quotations and give a clear, reasoned argument. You can partially agree.

Section B — Writing		
Question	**What it asks you to do**	**Top tip**
Q5 (40 marks) Creative writing	Choose one of two options: a descriptive piece or the opening of a story. A picture may be provided for inspiration.	Spend 5 minutes planning. 24 marks are for content and organisation; 16 marks are for technical accuracy. Quality of writing matters more than length.

Key phrases to understand	
Phrase	**What to do**
How does the writer use language...?	Focus on specific word choices, techniques and sentence forms and their effect on the reader. Do not just identify techniques.
How has the writer structured the text...?	Think about the whole text: openings, endings, shifts in focus, time or perspective. Do not write about language features here.
To what extent do you agree...?	Give your view and support it with evidence. A partially agreed response can score highly. One-sided answers limit your mark.
You could write about...	These bullet points are suggestions, not a compulsory checklist. You will not lose marks for taking a different approach.
Content and organisation (24 marks)	Marks for ideas, structure, vocabulary and engaging your reader. Your writing must have a clear and deliberate shape.
Technical accuracy (16 marks)	Marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Vary your sentence structures deliberately and proofread at the end.
Plan your answer	Spend 5 minutes planning Question 5. A clear structure improves both your content marks and your technical accuracy.

Additional subject revision:

Type of revision	**Resources needed**	**Time required**
Structural Analysis Practise writing about whole-text structure: how a text opens, develops and ends, and how focus or perspective shifts.	Past AQA Paper 1 questions and mark schemes	30 minutes

Type of revision	Resources needed	Time required
Vocabulary Building Learn and practise using ambitious vocabulary in your own writing. Read widely to expand your range.	Wide reading of fiction – novels and short stories Vocabulary lists and class notes	30 minutes
Timed Writing Practice Write a timed description or story opening (45 minutes). Check your work for SPaG and sentence variety.	AQA Paper 1 Section B past prompts	45 minutes
Self-quizzing Test yourself using a range of strategies: (1) Blurting – write down everything you remember about a topic, then check and fill gaps in a different colour. (2) Look, cover, write, check – learn a key term or technique, cover it, write from memory, then check. (3) Mind maps – create a mind map for each question type. (4) Flashcards – key term on one side, definition or example on the other.	Knowledge organisers and class notes Paper and pens	20–30 minutes per strategy
Online Sources SENECA The Exam Whisperer (Instagram) Mr Salles – You tube Mr Bruff – You tube Save my exams – subscription fee But with a free trial Steer to success – Instagram The Light Up Hub – Instagram and subscription		