



STANLEY HIGH SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL



Past papers/ Exam questions

Preparing for success





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Why is completing past papers a useful revision activity?

Click here to watch: [Revision: How to use past exam papers - BBC Bitesize](#)

- To better understand the structure of your exams
- To understand the type/style of questions you will face
- To identify gaps in your knowledge (so that you can focus your revision on these topics)
- To improve your time management in an exam



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1. Visit the exam board websites

You'll be able to find and download past papers on your exam board's website. If you're unsure where to get past papers from, ask a teacher.

The screenshot shows the AQA website interface. At the top, the AQA logo is displayed with the tagline "Questions matter". Navigation links include "Subjects", "Qualifications", "Professional Development", "Exams Admin", and "Services". Below the navigation is a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Subjects > English". The main heading is "English". Underneath, the "GCSE" section is visible, featuring two cards for "GCSE English Language" (code 8700) and "GCSE English Literature" (code 8702). Each card includes the next exam date and the specific paper name. A red arrow points from the text on the left to the "Past Papers" link on the English Language card.

AQA
Questions matter

Subjects Qualifications Professional Development Exams Admin Services

Home > Subjects > English

English

GCSE

Code	Subject	Next Exam	Paper	Action
8700	GCSE English Language	04 Nov 2025	English Language Paper 1	Past Papers >
8702	GCSE English Literature	11 May 2026	English Literature Paper 1	Past Papers >

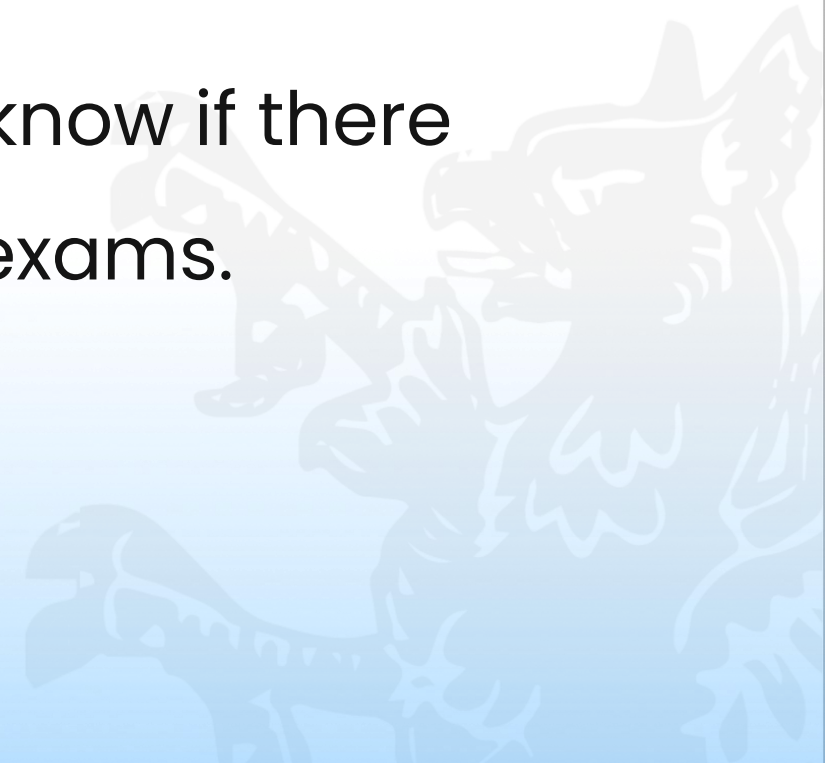


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2. Check the past papers are still relevant

Work with your teacher to make sure you know if there will be any changes from previous year's exams.





3. Use the mark schemes to check your answers

You can find the mark schemes on exam board websites. Go back through your answers and see where you gained marks (and why) and where you need to improve.

01	5	<p>'If God were loving, there would be no suffering in the world.'</p> <p>Evaluate this statement.</p> <p>In your answer you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refer to Christian teaching • give reasoned arguments to support this statement • give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view • reach a justified conclusion. <p>Target: AO2 Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including significance and influence.</p>	12																		
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Levels</th> <th>Criteria</th> <th>Marks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.</td> <td>10–12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.</td> <td>7–9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.</td> <td>4–6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.</td> <td>1–3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>Nothing worthy of credit.</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Levels	Criteria	Marks	4	A well-argued response, reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning leading to judgement(s) supported by knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. References to religion applied to the issue.	10–12	3	Reasoned consideration of different points of view. Logical chains of reasoning that draw on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. Clear reference to religion.	7–9	2	Reasoned consideration of a point of view. A logical chain of reasoning drawing on knowledge and understanding of relevant evidence and information. OR Recognition of different points of view, each supported by relevant reasons/evidence. Maximum of Level 2 if there is no reference to religion.	4–6	1	Point of view with reason(s) stated in support.	1–3	0	Nothing worthy of credit.	0
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4. Understand what the command words mean

Candidates often lose valuable marks because they have not provided the information that the question is asking for.

Speak to your teacher to make sure you understand what the command words mean.

- Analyse
- Compare
- Contrast
- Define
- Describe
- Evaluate
- Explain
- Identify
- Justify
- Outline
- State