

Circular S/IF/80/09

August/2009

To: The Principals of Post-primary Schools and Directors of Institutes of Further and Higher Education

For circulation to: The Heads of English Departments

GCE English Literature

Dear Colleagues,
Below are some information updates regarding our subjects.

GCE English Literature

A2 examination papers

1. Examination papers for A2 will be marked out of 120 uniform marks, 60 marks per question as per AS Unit 2. All three examined units now have the same uniform mark allocation, allowing teachers and students to become familiar with the marks and requirements for each Band in the Assessment Matrices across the three examinations. Whilst this is a change from the specimen papers and mark schemes, these can still be used to exemplify the requirements of the A2 examinations.
2. Where an examination is closed book prescribed editions of the text are not required.

A2 1 – The Study of Poetry – 1300-1800 and Drama

3. The prescribed poems for A2 1 are contained in Appendix 2, page 28, of the electronic version of the specification, available on our microsite http://www.ccea.org.uk/english_literature/. The Goldsmith question in the specimen papers and mark schemes is not from *The Deserted Village* however it should serve as a guide to the format questions will take.
4. The suggested anthology for Donne is Selected Poems: Donne (Penguin Classics), ISBN-10: 0140424407; ISBN-13: 978-0140424409. This is a closed book exam.

A2 2

5. Following feedback from teachers, A2 2 Section A: Close analysis of an extract from a post-1990 novel will be a closed book examination, with the extract for analysis being provided in a resource booklet accompanying the examination paper. Centres are reminded that candidates will be assessed on their response to the given extract and not on their knowledge of the wider text.

AS 1

6. A single Candidate Record Sheet combining information for Sections A and B will be used for submission with coursework for this unit from Summer 2010.

AS2

7. Following a review of the January and Summer 2009 AS2 examinations the format of the poetry questions for Section A: The Study of Poetry Written after 1800 has been updated as follows.

The current format reads, for example:

X and Y have both written about Z.

Compare and contrast the methods which the two poets use to present Z in two poems you have studied.

The updated format for this example would read:

X and Y have both written about Z.

Compare and contrast two poems, one by each poet, taking account of the situation and tones of the speakers, and the form, structure and language, including imagery, which each poet uses to present Z in two poems you have studied.

Please bring this information to the attention of your students.

GCSEs English Language and English Literature revised specification update

8. The revision of the GCSE specifications for English Language and English Literature for first teaching September 2010 is ongoing, with accreditation by Ofqual anticipated in early December 2009. Copies of the specification should be in centres early 2010. Support events will be scheduled for March 2010.

A further update regarding our subjects will be dispatched in September 2009. Please check on the News and Events pages of the microsites for details of upcoming events.

If you have any queries regarding the content of this circular please contact:

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