

# Revision Guide

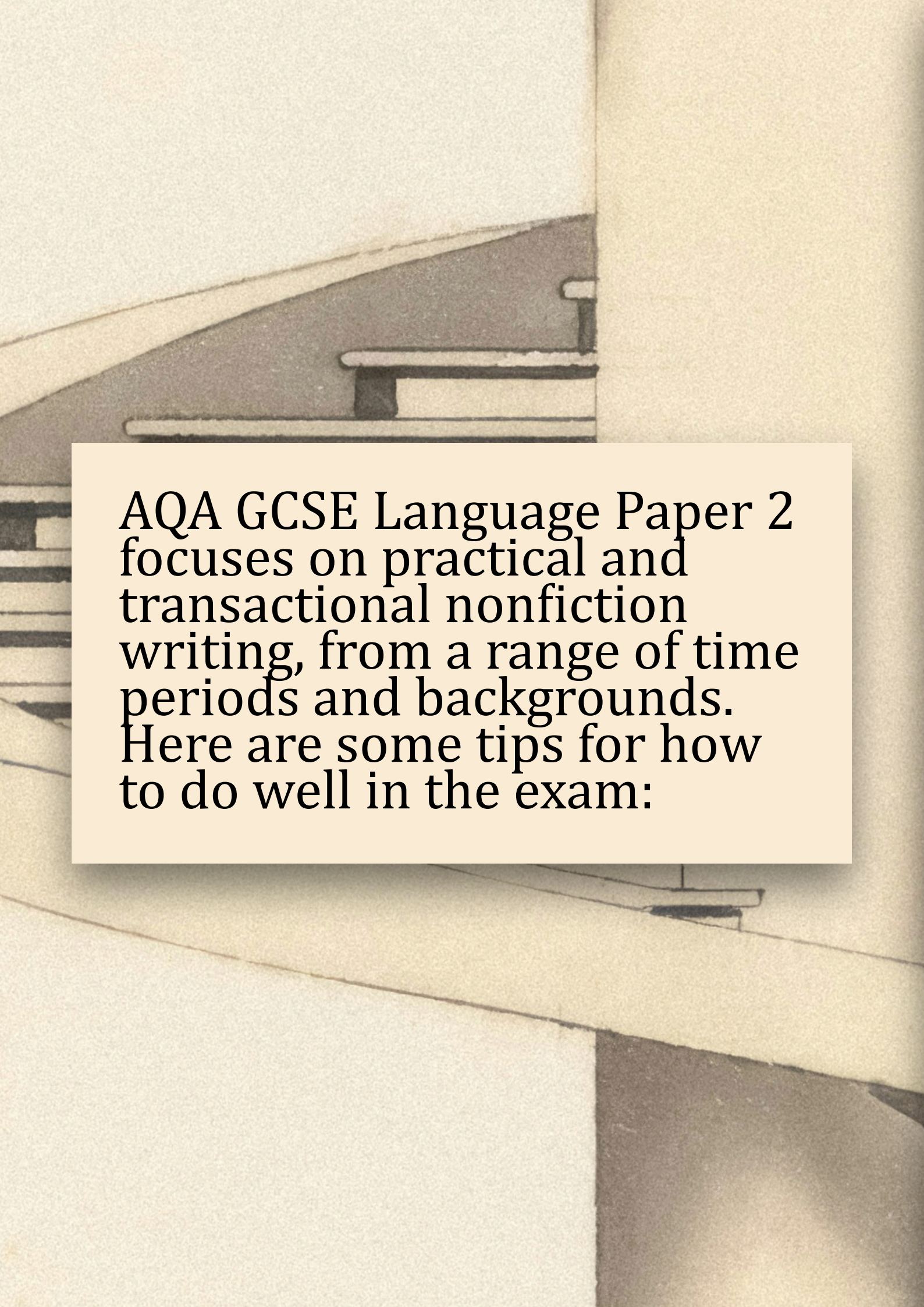
AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2

## WRITER'S VIEWPOINTS + PERSPECTIVES

Scrbblly.

The key to understanding this paper is in the title: **PAPER 2: WRITERS' VIEWPOINTS AND PERSPECTIVES.**

This means that it is focused on non-fiction writing (not stories) that provides strong opinions. Most of the writing you encounter in this paper will be persuasive, so make sure you are well trained in how to write effective persuasive pieces - including using a lot of rhetorical devices.

The background features a stylized illustration of a building with a curved, dark brown roof and a window with a white frame. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of beige, brown, and grey.

AQA GCSE Language Paper 2 focuses on practical and transactional nonfiction writing, from a range of time periods and backgrounds. Here are some tips for how to do well in the exam:

**Read lots!** Ideally, read a mixture of novels and short stories, but if you don't have much time for reading, then aim to **read 2-3 articles, letters and/or speeches per week** as a minimum. With speeches, you may find it useful to listen to them instead of just reading them.

**Keep a vocabulary list** - every time you come across a new word, write it down. At the end of the week, go through your words and find definitions for them.

**Improve your reading level slowly** - don't try to read very hard texts straight away because it will put you off. Read a mixture of fun stories that you enjoy and read for pleasure, and more challenging texts that improve your reading level.

**Set goals and targets**, and reward yourself for your achievements.

**Get gradually used to nonfiction writing.** Start by writing some short diary entries about yourself and your day. Then, try writing a letter to a friend, and one to a more formal or important person or organisation. After that, progress to longer pieces of writing, including practising speeches and articles.

Get into a habit of writing something creative **at least twice per week** - even if it's just a few sentences each time.

**Prepare well ahead of the exam**, setting good habits up as early as possible.

## SKILLS NEEDED:

- Reading comprehension
- High vocabulary
- Inference (reading between the lines)
- Analysis
- Summary
- Comparison
- Evaluation
- Creative writing (persuasive + informative non fiction)

## HOW TO STUDY:

Learn what type of revision structure works for you - it depends on your concentration levels, learning style, engagement and motivation

- Meet up in revision groups - explore debates and discussions on modern and controversial topics, share work, set tasks together, take breaks and have fun
- Learn independently - set lots of small tasks that you can tick off, use mark schemes to check your answers, read lots of different types of nonfiction, develop your own reading tastes and habits
- Keep very organised notes - a revision book or folder is a good idea
- Condense your revision notes - highlight or write out anything that you forgot
- Take regular breaks - either work intensely for short periods, or go at a slow pace and take your time
- Understand and take on board feedback from others, using it to improve your work
- Read lots of high grade student examples to help get yourself to the right standard - focus on structuring as well as language and writing style!

## HOW TO GET TOP GRADES:

Understand and work with mark schemes

Keep a vocabulary list of new words, academic phrases and advanced techniques or terminology

- Make sure you read a breakdown of exam questions / types
- Learn essay / analytical writing to a high standard (**PEE paragraphs** / Intro / Thesis / Conclusions / Summaries )
- Learn how to write a range of non fiction forms (blog, diary entry, article, opinion piece, speech, letter etc)
- Practice papers and get feedback (complete a minimum of **4 full papers** with feedback before you take your actual exam)

**AQA  
GCSE  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE  
PAPER 2  
OVERVIEW**



# **BREAKDOWN OF THE PAPER**

## **Section A: Reading**

- You are given one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text
- Tests your comprehension skills (reading + understanding, including difficult vocabulary)
- Information selection skills (understanding the question and selecting the right quotations to prove your point)
- Analysis / Evaluation skills (explaining in detail how + why language works in a particular way, and tying that to how it achieves the overall purpose of the text)

## **Section B: Writing**

- Writing to present a viewpoint >  
ARGUMENTATIVE / PERSUASIVE WRITING

## **TIMING: 1hr 45 mins in total**

Practise timings before taking the real exam.

Complete mock papers / questions in accurately timed conditions + get your teachers or tutor to mark them + take on board feedback.

After noting down your feedback, try again and aim for a better grade each time you try. It's good to make a checklist for each question of things to remember to include, that way over time you'll train yourself to hit all the targets required for the mark scheme on each question.

## **Section A: Reading (40 marks) (25% of overall GCSE) – two linked texts**

**Spend 55 minutes - 1hr on this section**

Before you answer the questions, spend 10 minutes reading through the texts thoroughly. Don't skip this stage or do it too fast, as you need to absorb the information and think about it properly before you begin writing.

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) > 5 minutes

2 longer form comparative and analysis questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) > 8-10 + 12-15 minutes

1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) > 15 - 20 minutes

5 minutes reading through and checking your answers  
**MARK SCHEME**

## **Section B: Writing (40 marks) (25% of overall GCSE)**

### **Spend 45-50 minutes on this section**

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Understand all the keywords of the question before you start, make sure your answer is as targeted as possible towards the question.

Plan your writing before you begin - take around 5 minutes to plan, it doesn't need to be in great detail it can just be an overview of where you're going with the question. Make sure to identify your GAP (Genre, Audience, Purpose) as thoroughly as you can before starting to plan.

Spend around 35-40 minutes writing. Write using as complex vocabulary as you can, try to adapt your style to suit the GAP and use a huge range of language techniques and punctuation. This is a persuasive piece so rhetorical devices are especially important to use here. Semicolons and colons are considered high level pieces of punctuation, definitely learn how to use those and put them into this answer.

# MARK SCHEME

## (READING)

**AO1:** Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas + select and synthesise evidence from different texts.

**AO2:** 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.

**AO3:** Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts.

**AO4:** Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references.

# **MARK SCHEME**

## **(WRITING)**

**A05:** 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.

**A06:** Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

(This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)

## NOTES FROM THE EXAM BOARD:

The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by:

- In section A, reading **two linked sources from different time periods and genres** in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader.
- In section B, producing a written text to a specified **audience, purpose and form** in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A.

The paper will assess in this sequence, AO1, AO2 and AO3 for reading, and AO5 and AO6 for writing. Section A will be allocated 40 marks, and section B will be allocated 40 marks to give an equal weighting to the reading and writing tasks.

## **A NOTE ON THE CONTENT:**

The sources for the reading questions will be **nonfiction and literary non-fiction texts**. They will be drawn from the **19th century, and either the 20th or 21st century** depending on the time period assessed in Paper 1 in each particular series. The combination selected will always provide students with an opportunity to consider viewpoints and perspectives over time. Choice of genre will include high quality journalism, articles, reports, essays, travel writing, accounts, sketches, letters, diaries, autobiography and biographical passages or other appropriate non-fiction and literary nonfiction forms.

In section B, there will be a single writing task related to the theme of section A. It will specify audience, purpose and form, and will use a range of opinions, statements and writing scenarios to provoke a response.

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