

# Introduction to the A\* Equivalency exam.

Combination of the **AQA English language GCSE** papers **1 and 2**.

Questions **1 to 4** of the **A Star** exam = **Questions 1 to 4 of AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2**.

Question **5** of **A Star** = **Question 4 in AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1**.

Question **6** (two options) **Option A** is based on **Question 5 of AQA GCSE English Language Paper 2**. **Option B** is the **picture option** of **Q5 AQA GCSE Paper 1**.

Time allowed: **2 hours and 10 minutes**

### **Part A is reading exam**

- You will have **two sources** to read for these questions
  - **Five questions** in total
  - **60 marks** in total
- Recommended time: **1 hour and 25 minutes**

### **Part B is writing exam**

- You will have **2 options** (one more **argumentative**, and one **descriptive**)
- The question is for **40 marks** (**24** for **content**/ **16** for **technical accuracy**)
  - Recommended time: **45 minutes**

## Section A: Reading Assessment Mark Scheme

### A01

- a) **Identify** and **interpret explicit** and **implicit** information and ideas
- b) **Select** and **synthesise** evidence from different texts

### A02

**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

### A03

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

### A04

**Evaluate** texts **critically** and **support** this with appropriate **textual references**

## Question 1

**4 marks** in total

### Multiple Choice

Assessment using **A01** (explicit and implicit information)

You will be given a **list of statements** based on the text.  
You need to say which 4 are true.

## Question 2

**8 marks** in total

A **comparison** of **similarities** or **differences** between one element in the two texts

Again assessment using **A01**, but **both parts** (explicit and implicit information/select and synthesise information from different texts)

**Requires evidence** in the form of **short quotations**, **explanation** of what the **evidence** tells us and inference over why similarities or differences exist

## Question 3

**12 marks** in total

A **focus** on the **writers' techniques**. **How** they get their message across.

Assessed using **AO2: Analyse** how the writers' use language and structure, **relevant terminology** needed.

**Quotes** picked from the text followed by **explanation** of the **effect** of the phrase using **directly related language**.  
Zoom in on **individual words**.

## Question 3

**12 marks** in total

A **focus** on the **writers' techniques**. **How** they get their message across.

Assessed using **AO2: Analyse** how the writers' use language and structure, **relevant terminology** needed.

**Quotes** picked from the text followed by **explanation** of the **effect** of the phrase using **directly related language**.  
Zoom in on **individual words**.

## Question 4

**16 marks** in total

A **comparison** question using the **whole** of **Source A** and **B**.

Assessed using **A03** (A **comparison** of the writers **perspectives**, the **techniques** they use and how their messages are conveyed)

Question will include **bullet points**, giving **additional information** on what you have to **focus** on.



## Question 5

**20 marks** in total

Based on a question from **AQA GCSE English Language Paper 1**

You will be given a **quote** analysing the reading(s) that you will need to **agree** or **disagree** with. Still a reading question so your answer must be **based** in the **text**. You should include **analysis** of both **what the writer says** and **how they say it**.

Assessed using **AO4** (A critical analysis of the text)

You will be given **bullet points** to guide you.

## A05: Content and Organisation

- a) **Communicate clearly, effectively** and **imaginatively**, selecting and adapting **tone, style** and **register** for different **forms, purposes** and **audiences**.
- b) **Organise** information and ideas, using **structural** and **grammatical features** to support coherence and cohesion of texts. (24 marks out of the 40 marks)

## A06: Technical Accuracy

Candidates must use a **range** of **vocabulary** and **sentence structures** for **clarity, purpose** and **effect**, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement constitutes 16 of the 40 marks)

## Question 6 Option A

**40 marks total (24 for content, and 16 for technical accuracy)**

An opportunity to present your own **opinion** on a statement

Topic linked to section A

Writing to **explain/instruct/advise/argue/persuade**

You may be asked to write a **letter/article/leaflet/speech/essay**

## Question 6: Option B

**40 marks** total (**24** for **content**, and **16** for **technical accuracy**)

**Descriptive** writing.

You will be given a **picture** based on **part A** of the exam as a starting point.

Assessment of **clear communication** and ability to **organise** information

Using **language imaginatively** and **creatively**