GCSE English, English Language and English Literature

Using the AQA Anthologies

For the new GCSE English specifications from 2010 there will be two Anthologies available:

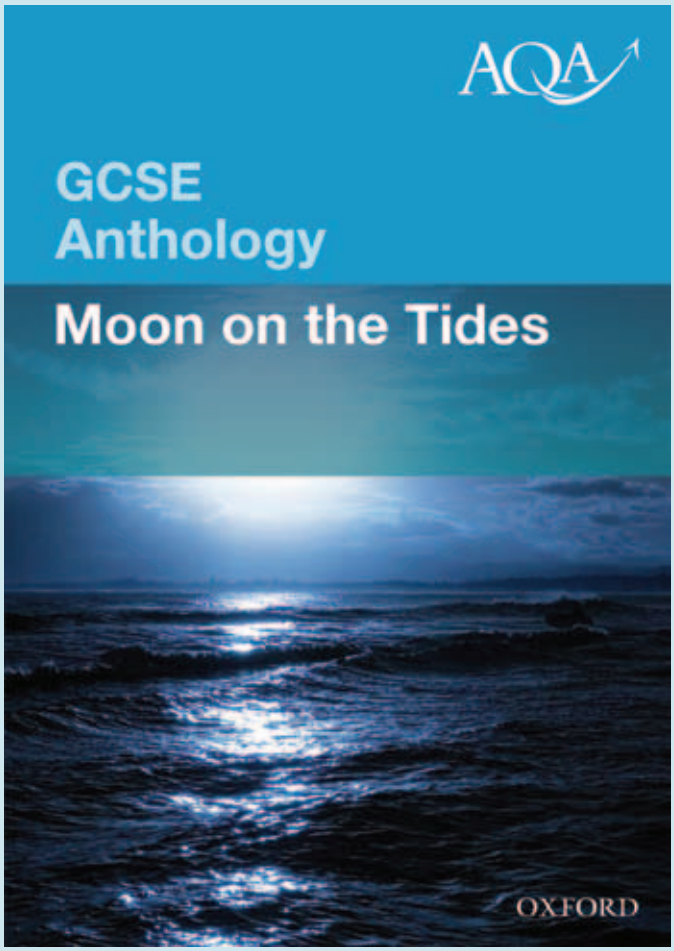
- *Moon on the Tides*, the AQA poetry Anthology
- *Sunlight on the Grass*, the AQA prose Anthology

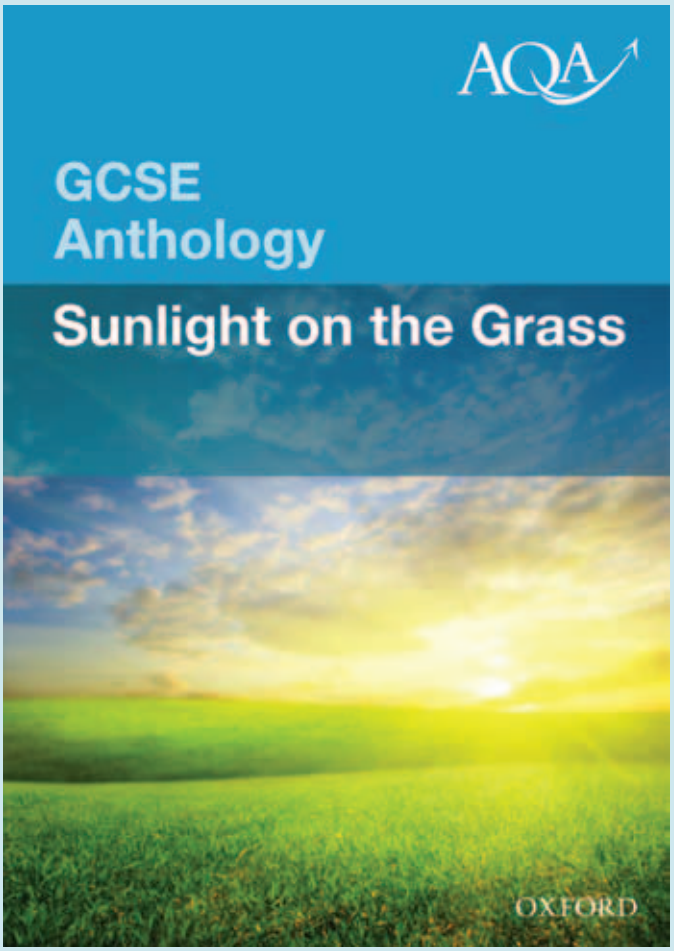
This guide will help you make the most of these Anthologies.

In addition to the hard copy Anthologies, the digital Anthology is available at **anthology.aqa.org.uk**

There is a comprehensive range of **free resources and support** to accompany these specifications including online resources in the English Resource Zone at **aqa.org.uk/englishzone**

If you have any enquiries about GCSE English, English Language or English Literature you can speak directly to the AQA English team by e-mail **english-gcse@aqa.org.uk** or telephone **0161 953 7504**.





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GCSE English, English Language and English Literature

For the new GCSE English specifications from 2010 there will be two Anthologies available:

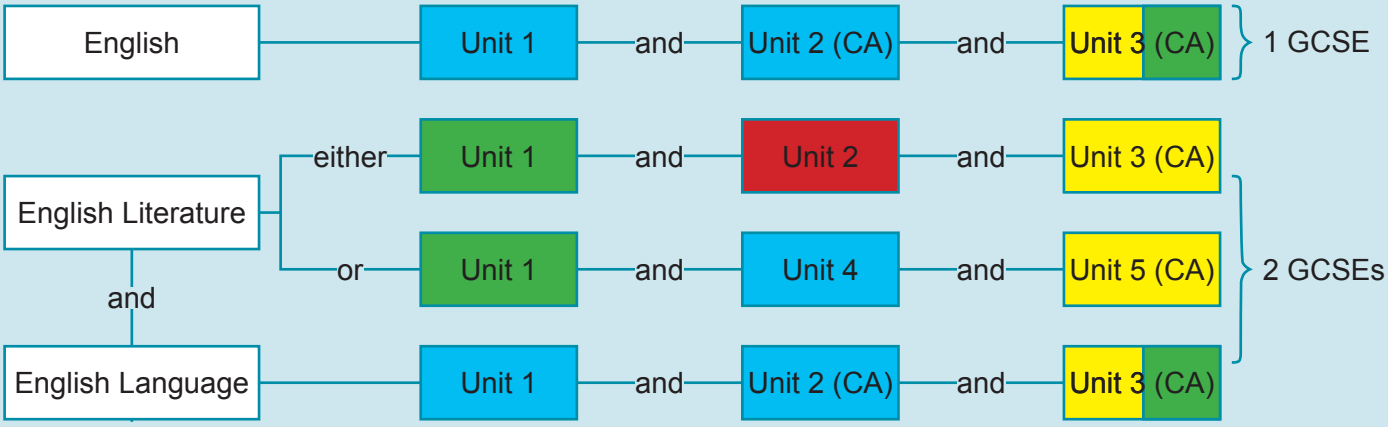
***Moon on the Tides*, the AQA poetry Anthology**

and

***Sunlight on the Grass*, the AQA prose Anthology**

The Anthologies are not compulsory and will be issued as a free resource to all centres which choose to use them, accompanied by the free online digital Anthology and supporting resources. The Anthologies can be used for any of the three GCSE courses and offer a good deal of choice and flexibility.

The diagram below shows where the Anthologies may be used:



Key:

- Moon on the Tides compulsory
- Moon on the Tides optional
- Sunlight on the Grass optional
- No requirement for Anthology

GCSE English Literature (4710)

- *Moon on the Tides* is compulsory for the examination in Unit 2 Poetry across time (47102).
- *Moon on the Tides* is optional for the Controlled Assessment of Unit 5 Exploring poetry (47103).
- *Sunlight on the Grass* is an optional set text for the examination in Unit 1 Modern prose (47101).

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GCSE English, English Language and English Literature

Using *Moon on the Tides* for Unit 2 Poetry across time (47102)

This examination paper is in two sections. For Section A, candidates will need to study one of the clusters from *Moon on the Tides*. There are four clusters to choose from: Characters and voices; Conflict; Relationships; and Place. Each thematic cluster is made up of 15 poems, some of which are from The Literary Heritage and some of which are contemporary, including those which are by writers from different cultures. Each cluster contains a variety of forms and genres to ensure that candidates cover a range of poetry. In preparing for Section A, candidates are expected to take a skills-based approach to the poems and should therefore be able to apply their ability to analyse a poem to all the poems in the cluster they are studying.

For Section B, candidates will be given an unseen poem in the examination. They will apply the analytical skills they have learned whilst preparing for Section A. For further preparation, you may also draw on poems from across the other clusters in the Anthology. This gives you scope to select the poems that your students will find engaging and that you will enjoy teaching. You are advised to select a range forms and genres from across the other clusters so that your students have a wealth of experience in responding to poetry. In preparing for this section you can use poems outside the Anthology – the advantage of using the Anthology is that you can make use of the digital resources.

Using *Moon on the Tides* for Unit 3 Exploring Shakespeare and the Literary Heritage (47103)

Unit 3 allows candidates to write about any genre from the Literary Heritage in addition to a play by Shakespeare. If you decide that your candidates will write about poetry, you may choose any suitable poems which meet the requirements of the task, either from one cluster or from across clusters. Note that the poems chosen should not be from the same cluster that candidates are using for Unit 2. Candidates should study a range of poems but assessment will be based on their detailed understanding of a few poems.

Using *Moon on the Tides* for Unit 5 Exploring poetry (47105)

In this Controlled Assessment unit, candidates must cover a group of poems from The Literary Heritage and a group of contemporary poems. You may choose to use the work of individual poets, eg Blake and Armitage, you may choose to produce your own selection of poems, eg a collection of sonnets from Shakespeare through Elizabeth Barrett Browning to Carol Ann Duffy or, you may choose to use poems from *Moon on the Tides*, either in their existing thematic clusters or from across the selections. Candidates will be expected to study a number of poems but will be assessed on their detailed understanding of a few poems. As candidates are encouraged to take an exploratory approach to the poems they choose, using multi-modal forms if they wish, the digital version of *Moon on the Tides* will be an excellent resource as it will allow candidates to listen to recordings of each poem and to see or produce visualisations of the poems. Some candidates will use these multi-modal forms as a stimulus to their writing about the poems. Other candidates may use them as a model for producing their own multi-modal piece for submission.

Using *Sunlight on the Grass* for Unit 1 Exploring modern texts (47101)

This Anthology is an optional set text for Section A of the Unit 1 examination. It contains seven contemporary short stories some of which are by authors from different cultures. Candidates studying this text will need to study all of the short stories. They will write about two of the stories in the examination but there will not be a requirement to make comparisons. The digital resources accompanying this Anthology will provide a range of activities to support teaching.

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GCSE English, English Language and English Literature

GCSE English Language (4705)

- *Moon on the Tides* and *Sunlight on the Grass* are optional for the Controlled Assessment of Unit 3 Understanding spoken and written texts and writing creatively (ENL03).

For Part A, extended reading, candidates may use either of the Anthologies. An 'extended text' is considered to be either one cluster of poems (or equivalent number drawn from across the Anthology) or the whole collection of short stories.

GCSE English (4700)

- *Moon on the Tides* and *Sunlight on the Grass* are optional for the Controlled Assessment of Unit 3 Understanding and producing creative texts (ENG03).

For Part A, literary reading, you have free choice of texts within the broad requirements below:

Candidates are required to respond to a Shakespeare play, a text from The English Literary Heritage (ELH) and a text from a different culture or tradition (DC). They are expected to cover drama, prose and poetry across these three texts. Since Shakespeare meets the drama requirements, there is flexibility in how you meet the poetry and prose requirement, ie you could do prose from the ELH and poetry from DC or poetry from DC and prose from the ELH.

Candidates can also use either of the Anthologies:

In covering the requirement for responding to a text from The English Literary Heritage, candidates may draw on any of the poems marked as 'The Literary Heritage' from *Moon on the Tides*. If this route is chosen, they would need to study prose from DC which could be the relevant short stories from *Sunlight on the Grass* (Anil, The 100 % Perfect Girl and Something Old, Something New).

Alternatively, candidates could draw on the poems from different cultures found in the contemporary poems in *Moon on the Tides*. In this route they would need to study prose from The English Literary Heritage.

Using the digital Anthologies across the specifications

The wide range of resources included in the free digital Anthology (**anthology.aqa.org.uk**) mean they can be used as inspiration across the specifications. They can stimulate many Speaking and Listening tasks and the audio recordings of the poems could be a starting point for investigating Spoken Language for English Language Unit 3. The visual resources can be a great starting point for creative writing prompted by an image – an option from 're-creations' in English Unit 3 (ENG03) and English Language Unit 3 (ENL03). Resources such as 'choptalk' and 'magnet' can be used to explore grammar and vocabulary in innovative ways.

You can adapt and save the resources and the resource database is SCORM compliant, allowing the export of resources to most VLEs.

Ordering the Anthologies

Because the Anthologies are not compulsory, it will be necessary for you to order copies. The order form is available AQA Exams Office Support on 0844 209 6614 or mail to: **eos@aqa.org.uk**

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