

What Are The IGCSE English Tips To Get An A*?

One question that students in classrooms frequently ask is, “How can I achieve an A* in IGCSE English?” This guide will explore the IGCSE board, syllabus intricacies, proven strategies, and IGCSE English Tips to secure an A* grade.

IGCSE follows a well-structured curriculum that encourages critical thinking, creativity, and effective communication. Uncover the secrets of how IGCSE works, including its assessment methods, to better prepare for the challenges ahead.

One of the burning questions students often ask is, “Are IGCSE English exams hard?” Let’s dive into this topic, exploring both the perceived difficulty, strategies, and IGCSE English Tips to overcome challenges.

IGCSE English Syllabus Breakdown:

A thorough understanding of the syllabus is crucial to excel in IGCSE English. Here’s a breakdown of both the syllabuses:

IGCSE First Language English:

Cambridge IGCSE English: First Language consists of two paper-based exams, each worth 80 marks and lasting for two hours. The first paper evaluates reading skills and includes three text passages.

The second paper includes a writing question and a composition task. Alternatively, your school may choose to replace the second paper with coursework.

Assessment:

- **Paper 1:** Reading (40%) – Unseen texts from a variety of genres like fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Tests comprehension, inference, and analysis skills.
- **Paper 2:** Directed Writing and Composition (40%) – Controlled writing tasks based on prompts and unseen stimuli. Assesses the ability to write different text types for specific audiences and purposes.
- **Coursework Portfolio (20%):** Collection of independent writing and speaking tasks completed throughout the course. Reflects progress and development in various skills.

Content Areas:

- **Reading:** Focus on understanding different text types, identifying key themes and ideas, analyzing language features, and making inferences.
- **Writing:** Develops skills in various writing styles and for different purposes, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and discursive writing.
- **Speaking and Listening:** Emphasis on clear and effective communication in various contexts, including formal presentations, group discussions, and individual speeches.
- **Language:** Covers grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and punctuation to ensure accurate and appropriate use of English.

Skills Covered:

- **Communication skills:** Reading comprehension, writing fluency, active listening, and clear speaking.
- **Analytical skills:** Identifying themes, analyzing language features, making inferences, and drawing conclusions.

- **Critical thinking skills:** Evaluating information, forming opinions, and supporting arguments.
- **Creative thinking skills:** Generating ideas, using language creatively, and developing personal writing styles.

IGCSE Literature in English:

Assessment:

- **Paper 1:** Poetry and Prose (40%) – Unseen poems and prose extracts from different periods and genres. Tests understanding of literary techniques, themes, and language.
- **Paper 2:** Shakespeare and Unseen Drama (40%) – Study of one Shakespeare play and analysis of an unseen dramatic text. Assesses understanding of character, plot, themes, and dramatic techniques.
- **Coursework Portfolio (20%):** Individual study of a chosen literary text (novel, play, or collection of poems) and a comparative essay linking two texts.

Content Areas:

- **Poetry:** Analysis of poetic devices, form, and structure, as well as exploration of themes and meaning.
- **Prose:** Understanding of different narrative styles, character development, plot structure, and thematic exploration.
- **Drama:** Close reading of plays, focusing on characterization, dialogue, dramatic devices, and themes.
- **Shakespeare:** In-depth study of a chosen Shakespeare play, analyzing language, character, plot, and themes.

Skills Covered:

- **Critical reading skills:** Analyzing texts closely, identifying literary techniques, interpreting themes, and drawing conclusions.
- **Analytical thinking skills:** Breaking down complex texts, identifying key elements, and making connections between ideas.
- **Evaluative skills:** Forming and supporting opinions about literary texts and characters.
- **Research skills:** Independent research on chosen literary texts and authors.

IGCSE English offered by Pearson Edexcel has two options: Specification A and Specification B. AQA IGCSE English has two papers and a non-examination spoken language assessment throughout the course.

Both require strong reading, writing, and analytical skills, but offer resources to help you succeed. Focus on your strengths and approach the exams with confidence!

IGCSE English Tips to Get An A*:

It is possible to achieve top grades in IGCSE English if you are prepared to work hard. Our experienced IGCSE teachers and examiners have given you these IGCSE English Tips to help you improve your grades. IGCSE English and Maths are both important qualifications for students.

Without these subjects, it can be not easy to pursue further studies in high school. In addition, good results in these subjects can be very helpful later when applying for college or college. It is important to understand the importance of these exams and prepare well for them.

Know Your Material:

Understand what you need to study for your English IGCSE. Read most, if not all, of the recommended non-fiction literature. Start early and don't wait until the last minute. Carry these books with you, read them during holidays, and gradually check them off your list.

Analyze as You Read:

When reading, turn off distractions, annotate texts, compare them, and note their style and tone. Summarize each chapter and pay attention to language details and interesting techniques. Seek help from others to improve your analytical skills. Contact Litera Centre to get proper guidance.

Practice Writing:

Hone your writing skills by practicing. After reading each recommended piece, set tasks like writing a review, summary, exam question, or short essay. This helps sharpen your analytical skills for the exam and is one of the best IGCSE English Tips you can get.

Focus on Grammar:

Pay attention to grammar. Even small mistakes can impact your grades. Identify and eliminate recurring errors. Linguistic flexibility is a skill you should master.

Use Past Exam Papers:

Practice with past exam papers to understand the exam format and question types. Learn from examples, literature excerpts, and specific answer requirements. It's valuable practice and helps you identify weaknesses and is one of the best IGCSE English Tips to help you prepare.

Get Help When Needed:

English involves communication, so get feedback. Family and friends can help, but an English teacher or tutor is better. They provide expert opinions on your strengths and weaknesses, offering guidance and practice to prepare for exams. At Litera Centre, we're here to support your educational journey. Reach us for the help you need.

References:

- <https://www.cambridge.org/us/education/qualification/cambridge-international>
- <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-upper-secondary/cambridge-igcse/grading-choice/>