What happens if you fail GCSE English Language but pass Literature?

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If you fail GCSE English Language but pass GCSE English Literature, I have some good news for you: **you only need to pass either Language or Literature**. So, as long as you pass one, you're free! You don't have to keep resitting English until you pass!

The government restrictions aren't as strict as they might originally seem. After all, GCSE English Literature is often considered the more difficult of the two GCSEs! So, if you managed to pass it, then you've proved that you do have the level of English that they want every young person to have. It's just that the format or content of the English Language GCSE in particular didn't work for you. Or maybe you just had a bad day.

I'm taking this information directly from the government website, so you can rest assured that it's definitely true! This is what the website says at the moment:

6.3 What students can and must study

Tables 1 and 2 show a summary of what qualifications students must study, with table 2 showing a breakdown of GCSE English language and GCSE English literature. If a student has achieved a grade 4+ in either English literature or English language at Key Stage 4, there is no requirement to continue studying English since the condition of funding is met.

If you would like to check it for yourself, you can find the information here. Make sure you scroll down to 6.3 for more details!

That means you're not doomed to take the same course over and over again until you either pass or turn 18. It's great news for lots of students, especially because it was so difficult the first time around when you were attending weekly English classes!

Is it worth resitting GCSE English Language even if I've passed Literature?

If you've passed GCSE English Literature, you don't *need* to resit English Language if you don't want to. But that doesn't mean there aren't benefits to trying again!

For example, some schools, sixth forms and colleges have their own requirements. They might want you to get a specific grade before they'll admit you in the first place. It could be that they expect you to work towards getting a 4 in GCSE English Language anyway. Or, they might expect a specific grade for the courses you want to take.

Then there are universities. It's rare for courses to have GCSEs on their entry requirements these days, but it does happen! So make sure you check out any courses you're interested in. That might help you to make a more informed choice and motivate you a little more. We all need some motivation from time to time.

Personally, I also think it's useful to give it another go if you *know* you can pass. Like I said before, some people fail GCSE English Language because they had a bad day, that specific paper stumped them, or because they had other things going on in their personal lives that stopped them from doing their best.

If that sounds like what happened to you, then you might want to try again for your own sake. If I knew that I could do better, I'd want to give it a go just to prove that to myself. And for some people who had personal reasons why they failed GCSE English Language, it might be a therapeutic. It might ve a way to prove to yourself that whatever happened doesn't stop you from succeeding.

But if you don't know if you can pass it the next time around, you've already passed GCSE English Literature and there are no entry requirements holding you back, then don't put extra stress on yourself when you don't need to. Focus on doing well in your future courses.

Can I try again if I want to?

Even if you passed GSCE English Literature, you might want to resit English Literature because you want to see if you can do better the next time around. If that's the case, it's absolutely okay! There are plenty of ways that you can try again.

For one, there are plenty of schools, colleges and sixth forms that would be happy to help you if that's the case. Lots of them already have classes set out for students who need to resit anyway. If

there are spaces available, they will often be happy to let you join the class! But since this is your choice, you might have to be more proactive than the students who have to be there.

I know the sixth form college I work at does this. We've even let students on if they passed but didn't do as well as they wished. The teacher's already spending their hours working on the resits, anyway. So why not let you join?

Of course, not all schools will have the space available for you. If that's the case, there might be a few more options available to you, but they'll require you hiring a tutor:

- Hire a tutor to help you improve, but register with your school, sixth form or college for the actual exam.
- Hire a tutor to help you improve and sign up for the exam at a private exam centre.
- Buy a package that includes tutoring lessons as well as the exam centre sign up.

Of course, the first option is the cheapest. However, that depends on your school's ability to help you! You might need to try option two or three, if they're not being particularly helpful.