



GCSE English Language/ GCSE English Literature

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Why study GCSE English Language & English Literature?

English is a core subject offering all students equal opportunity to demonstrate attainment in speaking, listening, reading and writing by using a variety of assessment techniques.

What does the course involve?

Students will study a wide range of texts comprising fiction, non-fiction, extracts and examples of literature. They will be encouraged to explore different types of writing and to extend their ability to speak and listen in a variety of contexts.

A variety of teaching and learning styles including whole class discussion, group and paired work will prepare students for the assessment of their work. They will also have the opportunity to practise examination techniques during the course.

How will I be assessed?

Students follow the AQA GCSE program for English Language and English Literature:

Units of Study: Language

Unit 1: Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading – 50% of final award

- An externally assessed exam of 1 hour 45mins
- Students answer four questions on a literature fiction text and one extended descriptive writing question
- Assesses both reading and writing skills

Unit 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives – 50% of final award

- An externally assessed exam of 1 hour 45mins
- Students answer four questions on non-fiction texts and one extended persuasive writing question
- Assesses both reading and writing skills

Speaking and Listening

- A separate endorsement assessed throughout the course
- An internally assessed and externally moderated controlled assessment

Units of Study: Literature

Unit 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel – 40% of final award

- An externally assessed exam of 1 hour 45mins
- Students answer on one Shakespeare text and one 19th century novel
- Students analyse both an extract and the text as a whole

Unit 2: Modern Texts and Poetry – 60% of final award

- An externally assessed exam of 2 hours 15mins
- Students answer on a modern prose or drama text and a selection of poetry
- The exam comprises both seen and unseen elements

What are my progression routes?

English develops communication and essay writing skills essential for most careers, degrees and A-Level subjects. The analytical skills are transferable to other subjects such as Psychology, Sociology and Media Studies and the creative aspects work well with Arts based subjects. English Literature or Language and Literature continue to be popular A-Level choices, highly regarded by universities and employers.