

COURSE OVERVIEW

At school, English is divided into two subjects: English Language and English Literature. In English Language you study the rules and structure of the language, how it has evolved, how we learn it and how it is used by different people and for different purposes.

PAPER 1

Explorations in creative reading and writing

Students will develop their skills in creative prose writing such as writing to describe and narrate, and imaginative and creative use of language. Students will analyse a text through comprehension style questions.

PAPER 2

Writers viewpoints and perspectives. Reading non-fiction texts, one from the 19th Century and either the 20th or 21st Century.

Writing skills will be developed so students can write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and to real-life contexts in, for example, letters, articles, reviews, speeches.

NON-EXAM ASSESSMENT

Students will learn to present or deliver a speech. They will also be asked questions following the presentation or speech.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

Students will read a wide range of texts, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing.

Students develop their ability to write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately; use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately; acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology. Creativity, communication, critical thinking, textual analysis and essay writing are skills which will all be developed and which are needed in the workplace.

Qualification: **GCSE**

Awarding Body: **AQA**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is assessed externally by two final examinations in summer 2023 (there is no coursework). The examination papers are un-tiered (so all students take the same papers).

PAPER 1

Written paper worth 50% the exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

PAPER 2

Written paper worth 50%. The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

POST 16 OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

English Language GCSE is a requirement of further study at college, sixth form, apprenticeships and employment. The skills students develop at GCSE provide an excellent foundation for A Level study in a range of subjects and for university courses.

Whichever career path you choose a strong command of English will help you communicate with colleagues and clients in meetings, presentations and everyday discourse. It will also enable you to write to the professional standard required at work, whether that is in the form of emails or reports. Some careers require an advanced understanding of English such as Reporters, Barristers, Politicians and Journalists using clever techniques to persuade us to adopt their point of view. Playwrights, comedians and performers use English creatively to inspire and entertain.

“This subject has really helped me to think critically and to be creative. We have read some interesting books and articles and have had some fascinating discussions in lessons.”

COURSE OVERVIEW

At school, English is divided into two subjects: English Language and English Literature. In English Literature, you will study literary texts such as novels, poetry and plays, exploring how language is used for literary effect as well as the historical, social and cultural context.

Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Shakespeare:

Students will study Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth.

The 19th-century novel:

Students will study A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Paper Two: Modern Texts and poetry

Modern texts:

Students will study Blood Brothers by Willy Russell

Poetry:

Students will study a collection of poems from an AQA Anthology.

Students will also have to answer questions on unseen poetry.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

Students will:

- read a wide range of classic literature to develop a good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- develop the habit of reading widely and often
- appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- Creativity, communication, critical thinking, textual analysis and essay writing are skills which will all be developed and which are needed in the workplace.

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Awarding Body: **AQA**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

The course is assessed externally by **two final examinations** in summer 2023 (there is no coursework). The examination papers are un-tiered (so all students take the same papers).

PAPER 1

Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel - 40% of the GCSE. The exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

PAPER 2

Modern Texts and poetry - 60% of the GCSE. The exam is 2 hours 15 minutes long.

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"The English Department are so helpful and supportive in their teaching. Studying Literature has helped me to build life skills such as close reading and analytical thought."