

GCSE : English Language

Course Description

English Language will enable learners to:

- read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

Examination Information

- Exam board: AQA
- 100% assessment by linear exam
- Non –tiered exam papers
- 20% of marks awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

This course must be studied in conjunction with GCSE English Literature leading to a dual award in:

GCSE in English Language and GCSE English Literature

Assessment Objectives:

AO1: Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas and select and synthesise evidence from different texts

AO2: Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views

AO3: Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts

AO4: Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

AO5: Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts

AO6: Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (*This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks.*)

AO7: Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting

AO8: Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback on presentations

AO9: Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

Teaching & Learning students will study for two external examinations

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

- 50% of the total GCSE marks
- Students are required to read and analyse a fiction text and to complete a writing task.

Section A: Reading: Students will be given an extract from an unseen literary text which may be a twentieth or twenty-first century novel or a short story. Students will be required to answer four questions about the extract.

Section B: Writing: Students will be given a choice of two writing tasks and asked to complete one. 20% of marks for this section are for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

- 50% of the total GCSE marks
- Students are required to read and analyse a fiction and a non-fiction literary text and to complete a writing task.

Section A: Reading: Students will be given an extract or a full text from two unseen literary non-fiction texts such as an extract from some travel writing and an article. The texts will be from different time periods and genres. Students will be required to answer four questions about the texts.

Section B: Writing: Students will be given a choice of two writing tasks and asked to complete one. 20% of marks for this section are for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Progression to Further Education

Students who achieve a grade 9-4 may progress onto A-Level English courses in the Sixth Form.



For further information please see:

Mr J Brettell
(Subject Leader of English)

Careers

- Journalism and writing
- Publishing
- Teaching
- Work in TV, Radio, Film, Drama and Music
- Marketing, Advertising, PR.
- Management