

English Language and English Literature GCSE

From September all students will start new 'reformed' GCSEs in English Language and Literature. We have decided that all students will follow courses in English Language and English Literature. These courses will be studied with the AQA exam board.

Why Study English?

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day – and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life!

Studying both English Language and English Literature will help you to:

- work independently
- be creative
- think critically
- communicate your ideas with confidence

What do you study? - GCSE English Language

The course allows 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 wide 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.

Learners are also encouraged to read widely, both for their own enjoyment and to further their awareness of the ways in which English can be used.

What do you study? - GCSE English Literature

The syllabus aims to encourage and develop candidates' ability to:

- read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with 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
- write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including the grammatical terminology and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.

How is the course assessed? - English Language

There is no coursework

2 external examinations covering:

- **Writing** - 50% (including 20% overall for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- **Reading** – 50% - The texts will come from 19th/20th/21st century

In addition all students will be assessed for **Speaking and Listening**. This will be assessed separately from GCSE English Language

How is the course assessed? - English Literature

There is no coursework

2 external examinations covering

- Shakespeare
- Pre-twentieth Century Novel
- Modern text – Prose/Drama
- Range of poetry from 1789 to present day
- Comparison of 2 unseen poems

Exam Board Link:

Please note these are the most current syllabuses on the site and could change:

English language <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>