

SUBJECT: GCSE English Language and Literature

YEAR: 10 & 11

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mrs H Duncan

GROUPING POLICY

All students will study follow two courses: English Language and English Literature (both with AQA Exam Board). Groups are set according to ability. The flexibility to move students between sets is maintained throughout the course. Set changes will be made based on review point data (including attitude to learning) and teacher recommendation.

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT: 100% External Examination

SPECIFICATION:

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

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

COURSE CONTENT:

- Creative writing
- Studying non-fiction texts (including 19th Century and modern texts)
- Writing transactional texts
- A Shakespeare play
- A 19th Century novel
- Contemporary and literary heritage poetry
- Either a modern drama or prose text
- Spoken language

It is not possible to state exactly which texts students will be studying as this will vary from class to class. Please contact your child's English Teacher if you would like further information.

The content will be assessed entirely through external examinations. There is no longer any coursework or controlled assessment element.

What will my child learn?

- to demonstrate skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately
- to express himself / herself creatively and imaginatively
- to become a critical reader of a range of texts, including multimodal texts, fiction and non-fiction prose, poetry and drama
- to use reading to develop his/her own skills as a writer
- to understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken English
- to understand that texts from the British Literary Heritage have been influential and significant over time, and to explore their meaning and relevance today

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Students will be given a reading list at the beginning of the course that will complement their study of set texts

- Where available, students will be given the option of seeing any theatre productions of drama texts studied.

ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

English Language and English Literature will be graded 1 to 9, with 9 being the top grade. As there are no internally marked components, students can expect regular exam-style tasks that will be assessed through peer and self-assessment, as well as marked by their teacher. This will encourage students to understand the assessment requirements of each assessment objective.

AQA GCSE English Language 100% Examination (two exams)

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% - 1 hour 45 minutes)

- Reading unseen literature text
- Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% - 1 hour 45 minutes)

- Reading one unseen non-fiction text and one unseen literary non-fiction text (one of which will be from the 19th Century)
- Writing to present a viewpoint

AQA GCSE English Literature 100% Examination (two exams)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (40% - 1 hour 45 minutes)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (60% - 2 hours 15 minutes)

- Modern prose or drama text
- The poetry anthology
- Unseen poetry

Spoken Language

Speaking and Listening will no longer count towards the final grade in GCSE English Language. Instead, it will be recorded separately on each student's qualification certificate as an endorsement to the qualification.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

All parents are issued with a guide at the beginning of the course which outlines the GCSE in more detail and includes specific information regarding support.

The best way to support your child is to discuss regularly what they are learning in class. Discuss the texts they are studying, asking them to describe characters, themes and the historical or social context of the setting.

How can I support my child with exams?

The Literature exams are closed book, which means students cannot take copies of the texts into the exam with them. Therefore, they need to know the texts very well. The best way to ensure this is for students

to purchase their own copies of the set texts in order to highlight, annotate and turn them into a revision tool. Copies of set texts are available through the school.

There are a number of revision guides to purchase. York Notes are particularly good for supporting the study of set texts.

Students must ensure that they are regularly returning to aspects of the course that they have already studied. They should be revising throughout the two year course.