



SUBJECT: Level 1 English Functional Skills

YEAR: 10 & 11

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT: Mrs Melville-Brown

GROUPING POLICY: All students will follow two courses: GCSE English Language and English Literature (both with A.Q.A. exam board). Groups are set according to ability and will be selected to sit the Functional Skills exams on the recommendation of their teacher. 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.

EXAM BOARD: AQA

ASSESSMENT: 100% External Examination

COURSE CONTENT

Link to Specification:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/specifications/AQA-8720-8725-SP-2019.PDF>

Curriculum Intent

To develop independent learners, with a love and appreciation of Language and Literature. We want students to have a broad understanding of how Literature is a response to what was happening at the time and how language can be used to effectively communicate ideas in a variety of different forms.

Implementation

Our curriculum is designed to return to key ideas, themes and skills and to embed this knowledge to develop students' extended pieces of writing. Links to what is also happening in our world presently are also discussed to make learning 'real'. Opportunities for extended writing are built into our schemes of work and whole class feedback is conducted on a weekly/fortnightly schedule so that lessons can be adapted for the needs of the students.

What your child is likely to study for the course:

- Creative writing
- Non-fiction texts
- Writing transactional texts
- Spoken Language

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 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
- To use reading to develop his/her own skills as a writer
- To understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken English

What enrichment opportunities are available?

Revision classes, where needed, will be put in place to support students leading up to important assessments throughout the course.



ASSESSMENT

How will my child's work be assessed?

This is a modular qualification, meaning that students can sit exams in February/March, May/June, November and January. Learners can complete all three assessments in the same or different exam sittings. Results will be graded on a pass/fail system. 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 Functional Skills Level 1 : 100% Examination (two exams)

Paper 1: Reading (33.3%; 1hr)

- A mixture of question styles, including multiple choice and short response

Paper 2: Writing (33.3%; 1hr)

- Two writing tasks, including marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. Learners must not have access to dictionaries or any spelling or grammar aid

Non-exam Assessment: Speaking, listening and communicating (33.3%)

- Tasks will be set by the school (one presentation and one discussion task). This will be marked by the school using the pass/fail marking criteria set by the exam board

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

All parents will be emailed termly information about what the focus will be for their child that term. Even though this will be based around the GCSE course, the skills needed for Functional Skills will be covered in the GCSE lessons as they are very similar. Ways to support at home will also be included.

One of the best ways to support your child is to discuss regularly what they are learning in class.

How can I support my child with exams?

There are a number of revision guides to purchase. CGP is particularly good for this:

<https://www.cgpbooks.co.uk/secondary-books/functional-skills/english/e1sra3-functional-skills-english-level-1>