

KS4 GCSE English Language

Course Specifications

Exam board: AQA

Course type: GCSE

Course Description

English Language asks students to respond to a range of unseen fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Students will also be asked to write their own piece of narrative or descriptive writing and their own non-fiction texts.

Skills & Abilities

Students will develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a range of texts. They will be able to make comparisons between texts, summarise and synthesis information and evaluate texts. Students will also develop their written skills so that they can write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately as well as using spelling, punctuation and grammar accurately and effectively. The spoken language element of the course allows students the opportunity develop their formal speaking skills while responding to questions.

Assessment

Paper 1: Exploration in Creative Reading and Writing – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Section A: Reading

One Literature fiction text

Four questions – 1 short question asking students to list information (4 marks), 2 longer questions (8 marks) and 1 extended question (20 marks)

Section B: Writing

Descriptive or narrative writing

One extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Section A: Reading

One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Four questions – 1 short question asking students to identify true statements (4 marks), 2 longer questions (8 marks and 12 marks) and one extended question (16 marks)

Section B: Writing

Writing to present a viewpoint

One extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

Students will be assessed on presenting, responding to questions and their use of standard English. This is a separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE) and students will receive a pass, merit or distinction.

Careers & Progression

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Guidance & Advice

[Click here for AQA information about English Language.](#)

Course Specifications

Exam board: AQA

Course type: GCSE

Course Description

English Literature asks students to respond to Shakespeare and 19th Century texts, unseen poetry and anthology poetry (Power and Conflict).

Skills & Abilities

Students will develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wider range of different texts as well as developing an understanding of the contexts in which these texts were written. They will also develop the skills necessary to write clear and coherent responses using accurate Standard English.

Assessment

This year, students will be assessed as follows:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Novel – 1 hour and 45 minutes

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on 'Macbeth'. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on 'A Christmas Carol'. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry – 2 hours and 15 minutes

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on 'An Inspector Calls'.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other people from the Power and Conflict anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. This will be in two parts, respectively.

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