

KS3/4 English

Curriculum Information

2017 / 2018



KS4 English Language

The English Language GCSE is completed across 2 exams with each paper worth 50% of the overall mark. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. The aim of paper 1 is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by, in section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers. And in section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

The aim of paper 2 is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by, in section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader. And in section B, producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A.

English Literature

The English Literature GCSE is completed across 2 exams. Paper 1 is 1 hour and 45 minutes long and worth 40% of the overall mark. Paper 2 is 2 hours and 15 minutes long and worth 60% of the overall mark. The aim of paper 1 is to engage pupils with a Shakespearean play and a 19th-century novel. In section A, pupils will answer one question on their studied Shakespearean play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. In section B, students will answer one question on their studied novel. They will also be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

The aim of paper 2 is to engage students in a modern text and poetry. In section A, students will answer a question on their studied prose fiction or drama where students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. In section B, students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster. For section C, Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Specific Studied Topics are:

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- AQA Power and Conflict poetry cluster
- Novel: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
- Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet
- Modern Text: An Inspector Calls
- Unseen Poetry

KS3 English Curriculum

Across years 7, 8 and 9, pupils develop the key, essential skills and knowledge to best prepare them for years 10 and 11. This includes developing their abilities to read fiction and non-fiction texts, produce descriptive and narrative texts and write in various forms of non-fiction texts. Pupils read classic and modern novels and prose, study classic and modern poetry, along with studying several William Shakespeare plays. Collectively, the curriculum ensures that all pupils develop a holistic set of reading writing and literacy skills.

Specific Studies Topics are:

YEAR 7

- Creative Writing – Twisted Fairytales
- Reading Fiction – Developing Detectives
- Reading Non-Fiction – Innovation and Persuasion
- Non-Fiction Writing – Transactional Writing
- Shakespeare – The Tempest
- Poetry - Ballads

YEAR 8

- Reading Non-Fiction – Media
- Reading Fiction – Of Mice and Men
- Creative Writing – Writing Detectives
- Non-Fiction Writing – Writing Detectives
- Shakespeare – Much Ado About Nothing
- Poetry – Poems from Other Cultures

YEAR 9

- Creative Writing – Gothic Fiction
- Reading Fiction – Stone Cold
- Non-Fiction Writing – Don't Get Me Started...
- Shakespeare – Macbeth
- Poetry – Love and Relationships