

ENGLISH - GCSE

Year 9

The English department follow AQA's specifications

In Year 9, pupils will begin to develop the skills needed for GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Pupils will study a 20th century drama text, developing skills for literature analysis and essay writing.

They will also develop skills in creative and imaginative writing with a focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar. This unit will also require pupils to write under timed conditions.

In addition, pupils will explore genres of non-fiction writing. This will develop skills in writing for a specific purpose, and for a variety of audiences.

Pupils will study 19th century texts. These will include short stories and extracts from novels.

We shall begin our study of the AQA Power and Conflict poetry anthology. Pupils will learn and revise terminology and develop through careful analysis of 5 poems.

Comprehension skills will be developed; students will work with a variety of non-fiction texts.

There will be three progress assessments over the course of the year. Pupils will be assessed on reading and writing skills. Pupils will develop speaking and listening skills throughout the year.

We shall continue to read as a class, enjoying a range of novels over the course of the year. This will hopefully encourage pupils to continue to read for pleasure in their own time.

N.B. These units will be assigned to terms once the staffing structure has been agreed each year.

Year 10

In Year 10, pupils will commence preparations for English Language and English Literature examinations.

Throughout the year, pupils will undertake progress assessments in English Language, which will examine reading and writing skills. Pupils will begin their study of a Shakespeare text and a 19th Century novel. They will continue to study poems from the AQA anthology. In addition, we shall begin our study of a modern novel.

We shall develop reading and writing skills for the English Language examinations. Pupils will also undertake a Spoken Language assessment. This is part of the English Language qualification.

Pupils will make a presentation to their group, which is recorded and sent to the exam board.

They will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.

Year 11

In Year 11, pupils will revise texts for English Literature examinations, tackling exam-style questions, and prepare for their English Language exam.

Term 1

Revision of Shakespeare text and work on English Language papers.

Term 2

Prep exams

Continue to work on English Language papers.

Revision of all literature texts.

Term 3

Revision of texts: refining essay-writing skills, writing under timed conditions.

Preparation for the English Language examination will continue throughout the year.

Examinations

English Language: Two examinations

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Time: 1 hour 45 mins

Section A: Reading. This section will examine pupils' skills in reading and extracting information from an extract from a fiction text. Pupils will be asked to explain how language is used to achieve specific effects.

Section B: Writing. In this section, pupils will be asked to write a descriptive piece. Each section carries 50% of the total marks for the paper.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Section A: Reading. In this section, pupils will be asked to extract information, compare and contrast two non-fiction texts, one of which will have been written in the 19th century.

Section B: Writing. In this section, pupils will be asked to write for a particular purpose, using the appropriate conventions for a non-fiction piece.

As with Paper 1, each section carries 50% of the total marks for the paper.

English Literature: Two examinations

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel

1 hour and 45 minutes

Pupils will answer two questions, one on each text. The Shakespeare text carries 4 additional marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar. They will be given an extract from each text, which they should analyse and explore in relation to events in the text as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

2 Hours and 15 minutes.

Pupils will answer one question on the modern text. This question will ask students to consider the text as a whole. There will be an additional four marks for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar for this question.

Pupils will then answer a question comparing two poems from the AQA anthology. The third, and final question on this paper requires pupils to analyse a poem they have never seen before. They will then be asked to compare this poem to another previously unseen poem.