



English



GCSE English Language and Literature: All students will study both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

The new GCSE – the main changes for the exams from 2017 onward:

- The final award will be a number between 1 and 9 (9 being the highest) rather than A*-G.
- There will be no tiers of entry.
- Students will be expected to read more challenging unseen and previously studied texts.
- Students will, for both Language and Literature have to study texts from the nineteenth century.
- The lengths of the examinations have been lengthened, the longest being 2 hours 15 minutes.
- The Literature exams are all 'closed book', which means they will not be permitted to take a copy of the text into the exam.

English Language AQA

There will be two exams, each lasting one hour 45 minutes. Both of these exams will require students to respond to a series of questions on unseen texts, one literary fiction, one literary non-fiction (diary, travel writing etc), and one non-fiction. These texts will have been written in the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty first century (one from each century).

Paper 1: 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing.' 50%

Section A: Reading 25%

Four questions on one literature fiction text from either the 20th or 21st century.

Section B: Writing 25%

One question, out of a choice of two narrative or descriptive tasks.

Paper 2: 'Writer's viewpoints and Perspectives.' 50%

Section A: Reading 25%

Four questions on two texts, one literary non-fiction and one non-fiction. One of these texts will be from the nineteenth century.

Section B: Writing 25%

One question out of a choice of two discursive tasks.

English Literature AQA

There will be two exams, the first lasting one hour 45 minutes and the second lasting two hours fifteen minutes. Students will read and study a variety of whole texts, including a play by Shakespeare, a nineteenth century novel, a modern novel or play and an Anthology of poetry.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel (40%)

Section A: Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet

Section B: The nineteenth century novel: Frankenstein (Mary Shelley) or A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)

For both sections of the exam, students will be provided with a key extract from the play/novel, which they will be expected to analyse. They are then required to link this to the rest of the novel. There are no choices of questions.

Paper 2: Modern texts, poetry and unseen poetry (60%)

Section A: Modern texts: Lord of the Flies (William Golding), Animal Farm (George Orwell) or An Inspector calls (J. B. Priestly). For this question there will be no extracts, but there will be a choice of two titles.

Section B: Poetry: Power and Conflict cluster from the AQA Anthology. One poem from the cluster will be printed on the paper, then students will select a further poem and compare the two in relation to the given theme.

Section C: Unseen poetry: For this section, there are two questions. The first is on a single poem and the second is a comparison with a second poem. Again there is no choice of questions.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and Listening no longer forms a part of the English Language exam, although it is still a compulsory element of the National Curriculum. Students are required to compose and perform a formal speech on a subject of their own choice, and then answer questions from their peers. For this they will be graded Pass, Merit or Distinction. All Speaking and Listening assessments will be taking place in June 2018.

English Language and Literature Examinations:

All students will take the **examinations** in **May and June 2019**. There will be a number of revision activities taking place in the months prior to this. These will include:

- Revision sessions after school and in the holidays.
- Drop-in sessions at lunchtimes.
- Targeted revision materials.

At home studies could be supported by:

English Language

Completing the following activities:

Reading

- Learning what will be assessed and the types of questions that will be asked.
- Completing practice papers. Getting used to looking at the amount of marks each question is worth and spending the appropriate amount of time on answering it (when available).
- Practising annotating texts (newspapers, fliers, leaflets etc) for following an argument, language and structural features and comparing viewpoints and presentations of a topic.
- Using the British Library website and getting used to reading extracts of fiction and non-fiction from the nineteenth century.
- Reading a variety and identify their audience, purpose and form. Practising annotating them for linguistic and structural devices.
- Choosing a text with an argument in it and identifying the “smaller” points the writer has used to make their “big” point.
- Looking for two different texts about the same thing and making a list of how they are similar and/or different.

- Practising writing two answers to the same question - one that identifies lots of techniques and explains their effects briefly and one that looks at a few techniques and has extended explanations- Point Evidence Explain.
- Analysing texts for their uses of facts and opinions. Looking for patterns in the whole text and identifying why they have been used. What effect they have on the reader.
- Buying the CGP Non-Fiction Reading guide and workbook.
- Learning the technical terms and using them in practice responses;
- Going to the BBC Bitesize web site English section, and completing the Reading Non-fiction Texts pages: getting started, genre, audience, purpose, language, information, style, tone.

Discursive Writing

- Learning the features different types and forms of writing.
- Reading a wide variety of styles of writing – fiction and non-fiction.
- Writing practice answers to sample questions then going back and annotate their own writing with the features.
- Practising planning answers to sample questions.
- Learning punctuation or spelling weaknesses – Revision books are available from Mrs Birchenall.
- Revising semi colons, colons, dashes, commas for subordinate clauses.
- Learning how to set out each form of writing in exams e.g. letter, newspaper article, speech.

Descriptive or Narrative Writing

- Learning the features of describe writing and making a poster to display in their bedroom.
- Practising planning answers to sample questions.
- Revising semi colons, colons, dashes, commas for subordinate clauses.
- Re-drafting work focusing entirely on correct sentence structures and punctuation.

English Literature

- Reading and watching Of Mice and Men, An Inspector Calls/Lord of the Flies, Frankenstein/A Christmas Carol and Romeo and Juliet.
- Using Cliff's Notes or Sparks Notes for the texts (internet).
- Using BBC Bitesize and the TES website.
- Visiting GCSE Pod.
- Purchasing revision guides from the Library on the set texts.
- Shortly AQA will be launching an online resource for students, which will contain lots of information and activities to support study and revision. When this is available we will let both yourselves and students know.
- <https://englishapp.pixl.org.uk/>