

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD	AQA
CONTACT TEACHER	Miss Ellis
LESSONS PER FORTNIGHT	8 (shared with Literature)

What will you learn?

Reading:

- To identify and interpret information.
- To select and synthesise evidence.
- To explore writers' use of language and structure.
- To compare writers' ideas and perspectives.
- To evaluate texts critically.

Writing:

- To communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively.
- To organise information and ideas using structural and grammatical features.
- To use a range of vocabulary, punctuation and sentence structures accurately.

Assessment

Overview

Overview			
Paper 1	Explorations in creative reading and writing	50%	End of year 11
Paper 2	Writer's viewpoints and perspectives	50%	End of year 11

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing

Students will be expected to read and respond to unseen literary fiction texts and to produce a piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Students will be expected to read and respond to two non-fiction texts and also produce a piece of transactional writing sharing their viewpoint.

In addition, students will complete a formal presentation which will be teacher assessed and will be given as a separate grade for Spoken Language. This will not influence their final GCSE grade.

Course Overview

Year 10		Year 11	
Language Paper 1 (fiction):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analysing a range of fictional texts from different 'Cultures and Places'. • Writing descriptive and narrative pieces. 	Language Paper 1 (fiction):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analysing a range of fictional texts from the Dystopian genre. • Writing descriptive and narrative pieces.
Language Paper 2 (non-fiction):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analysing a range of non-fiction texts around the theme of 'Adventure and Exploration'. • Writing creatively to present viewpoints 	Language Paper 2 (non-fiction):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and analysing non-fiction texts exploring how the modern world is becoming increasingly dystopian: Ecological Armageddon, Economical Dysfunction, Magical Technology. • Writing creatively to present viewpoints.



What students say?

Positives:

"The texts studied are interesting. Paper 2 allows you to form opinions on interesting topics, learning how to write an effective argument. I like the use of TED talks to explore texts further, you can use the texts studied to inspire your own creative writing."

Be aware of:

"Tight timings in exams, not having a full understanding of the writers' intentions and misreading the questions."

Qualities needed to do well:

"The ability to respond quickly to a text, being able to identify language and structural techniques, and being able to communicate your opinion."

Careers

A good English GCSE provides a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study, and good reading and writing skills are valued in any course or future career.

This GCSE can prepare students for jobs such as: teacher, writer, digital copywriter, journalist, lexicographer, copy editor or proof reader, web content manager, media and marketing, travel and tourism, law, film director, academic librarian and public relations manager.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

QUALIFICATION	GCSE
EXAMINING BOARD	AQA
CONTACT TEACHER	Miss Ellis
LESSONS PER FORTNIGHT	8 (shared with Language)

What will you learn?

- To read, understand and respond to texts.
- To develop and maintain a critical style, and develop an informed personal response.
- To use evidence from the texts, including quotations, to support responses.
- To analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects.
- To show an understanding of the relationships between texts.
- To explore the social and historical context of texts.
- To use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect.
- To use accurate spelling and punctuation.

Assessment

Overview			
Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th century novel	40%	End of Year 11
Paper 2	Modern texts and poetry	60%	End of Year 11

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel

Students will be expected to answer one question on a Shakespeare play (Romeo & Juliet) and one on a 19th century novel (Frankenstein).

Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry

Students will answer one question on a modern prose or drama text (An Inspector Calls). They will answer a question where they compare two poems from a selection in the 'Power and Conflict' anthology and also a third question comparing two unseen poems.

Course Overview

Literature Paper 1 (fiction):

Literature Paper 1 (Shakespeare and the 19th century novel):

- You will read and analyse Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', looking at the themes, characters and social and historical context of the play.
- In addition, you will explore Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' with an in-depth study of themes, characters and the social and historical context of novel.

Literature Paper 2 (fiction):

Literature Paper 2 (Modern texts and Poetry):

You will study the modern drama 'An Inspector Calls', looking at the themes, characters and social and historical context of the play.

You will analyse a collection of poems from the AQA 'Power and Conflict' anthology. Some of the favourites among our students include 'Ozymandias' by Percy Shelley, John Agard's 'Checkin' Out Me History', and Simon Armitage's 'Remains'. Furthermore, you will study a variety of 'unseen' poems.

Careers

A good English GCSE provides a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study, and good reading and writing skills are valued in any course or future career.

- Teacher
- Writer
- Digital copywriter
- Journalist
- Lexicographer
- Copy editor or proof reader
- Web content manager
- Media and marketing
- Travel and tourism
- Law
- Film director
- Academic librarian
- Public relations manager

What students say?

Positives:

"Studying interesting texts. There is also a wide variety of online resources on the texts studied, including videos on YouTube to aid revision. I like learning about the social and historical context of texts."

Be aware of:

"The need to memorise a large number of quotations and the language used in some of the older texts can be challenging."

Qualities needed to do well:

"The ability to remember key quotations, having a good vocabulary, having an open mind and the ability to look at life from different perspectives."

