

English at Key Stage 4 – 2009/10

In Years 10 and 11 students attend four English lessons a week. All students have access to both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. They are taught in mixed ability groups of 24.

GCSE English Language

Examination board: AQA Specification A

During the course, students study a wide variety of texts and writing styles from different genres. The qualification is assessed through coursework assignments and two examinations. There are two levels of entry, higher and foundation.

Coursework

Speaking and Listening (20% of total mark)

Three assessed speaking and listening performances in front of the class. Activities will involve individual, pair and group work and will explore students' ability to perform drama, take part in debate and their ability to inform and explain.

A Speaking and Listening Assessment day will take place in the November of Year 11 during which students will make a presentation to other students in the class.

Coursework Folder (20% of total mark)

Students complete four pieces of coursework – two assessed for reading, two assessed for writing. The topics are:

- Shakespeare
- Pre-1914 Prose
- Media
- Original Writing

Examinations

Paper 1 (30% of total mark)

Section A Reading response to non-fiction and media texts.

Questions based on fact and opinion; tracking arguments or ideas; use and effectiveness of presentational devices and writing techniques.

Section B Writing to argue, persuade and advise

Choose one question from a choice of four. Demonstrate writing ability and understanding of stylistic construction of text types.

Paper 2 (30% of total mark)

Section A Reading response to poems from different cultures

A choice of essay questions to show your understanding of the meaning and techniques of the poems from different cultures.

Section B Writing to Inform, Explain, Describe

Choose one question from a choice of four. Demonstrate writing ability and understanding of stylistic construction of text types.

GCSE English Literature

Examination board: AQA Specification A

As well as studying Shakespeare and a range of pre-1914 poets, students read a modern novel, a pre-1914 work of fiction, two modern poets and a modern playwright.

Coursework (30% of total mark)

Students complete three pieces of coursework two of which are also used for English Language. The topic areas are:

- Shakespeare (crossover from English Language)
- Pre-1914 Prose (crossover from English Language)
- Post-1914 Drama

Exam (70% of total mark)

Students sit one examination paper made up of two sections.

Section A Choice of questions on a literature text (either short stories from the Anthology or a modern novel, for example: *Of Mice and Men*; *To Kill a Mockingbird*; *Heroes*).

Section B Choice of questions on poetry from the Anthology. Students study two modern poets (either Simon Armitage and Carol Ann Duffy OR Gillian Clarke and Seamus Heaney) and a range of poets drawn from the pre-1914 poetry bank in the Anthology.