

English Language & Literature GCSEs

Examination Board: AQA

Non-Examination Assessment: Yes, but does not contribute to overall grade

Course Aims – English Language:

Whilst studying English Language, students will encounter a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing, such as reviews and journalism. Students will read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts and develop skills in the summary and synthesis of information or ideas from texts. Whilst progressing through the units of study, students will develop confident control of Standard English and skills in writing grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

What Will We Study In English Language?

Unit 1	Creative Reading	Development of analytical skills to evaluate the successes of unseen fiction.
Unit 2	Creative Writing	Development of writing skills to engage a reader and convey creative ideas. This unit places importance on the development of accuracy in writing and the deployment of varied and accurate grammatical structures.
Unit 3	Writing non-fiction	Development of writing skills to engage a reader and accurately construct non-fiction texts. This unit places importance on the development of accuracy in writing and the deployment of varied and accurate grammatical structures.
Unit 4	Reading non-fiction	Development of analytical skills to evaluate the successes of non-fiction.

How Will We Be Assessed In English Language?

Paper 1	Creative reading and creative writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis of a passage of unseen fiction (19th-20th Centuries) Creation of a piece of descriptive or narrative writing using an image as a stimulus 	50% of final grade
Paper 2	Non-fiction: reading and writing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparative analysis of two pieces of non-fiction Creation of a piece of non-fiction for a specific audience and purpose 	50% of final grade
Unit 3	Speaking & Listening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 10 minute group speaking and listening assessment 	Does not contribute to overall grade

Course Aims – English Literature:

Students studying English Literature will develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Through literature, students will develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level. Students will read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, make connections across their reading and gain an appreciation of the depth and power of the English literary heritage across a broad range of genres.

What Will We Study In English Literature?

Unit 1	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	Critical understanding, analysis and evaluation of Macbeth (Shakespeare) and A Christmas Carol (Dickens)
Unit 2	Modern Texts 1	Critical understanding, analysis and evaluation of An Inspector Calls (J B Priestley)
Unit 3	Modern Texts 2	Critical understanding, analysis and evaluation of a range of British Poetry (1789-2010)
Unit 4	Unseen Poetry	Development of analytical skills to apply to unseen poetry

How Will We Be Assessed In English Literature?

Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Analysis of two passages from the two selected texts integrated with analytical exploration of the themes of the wider text	50% of final grade
Paper 2	English Literature Poetry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparative analysis of two poems• Analysis of an unseen poem	50% of final grade

Where Can This Subject Take Me?

The English Language and English Literature GCSE courses develop students with the writing and reading skills required for post-16 study of English and provide students with a strong grounding in the transferable skills of critical appreciation of texts and purposeful writing. The course also aims to develop a passion for literature that will enable students to embark on their own lifelong reading journeys.

Possible careers explicitly linked to English include journalism, law and teaching, but the transferable skills developed in the qualification lend themselves to all industries that require skilled communication and judicious consideration of the written word.