



Time, Equipment and Expenses:

Pupils are expected to complete two homeworks each week that will entail a variety of tasks.

Each homework is expected to take 45 to 60 minutes.

The English department will provide the core set literature texts, but pupils may wish to purchase their own study guides to supplement their studies. (c.£10)

Expenses: As part of the preparation for the examinations, pupils will be expected to attend revision courses. They will also be given the opportunity to see any relevant theatrical performances and participate in other cultural events that may arise. Theatre visits and cultural events are highly recommended. (c.£30 per visit) A creative writing weekend is likely to be organised during Year 10. This is optional. (c.£150)

For further information,
please contact

Miss Brooke, Head of the English
or your English teacher.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: AQA

(All examinations are taken at the end of the course in Year 11).

The English department teaches a two year course leading to two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. Pupils begin these courses in Year 10. Year 9 pupils develop their skills in all aspects of English by following a GCSE Foundation course.

Studying English Language and English Literature will be required pupils to do the following:

- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly
- punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- read a wide range of texts, challenging literature and non-fiction texts from a range of genres and types (from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries) fluently and with good understanding. The texts will be taken from a range of genres and used to support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models. The texts used in English Language examinations will be "unseen", that is, students will not have studied them during the course.

They will answer questions which show their ability to do the following:

- A. develop the skill of critical reading and comprehension, summary and synthesis
- B. evaluate writers' choices of vocabulary, form, grammatical and structural features
- C. compare two or more texts.

In their writing, students will need to use clear and coherent writing for impact.

GCSE English Language

Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing. Assessment: Section A (25%): Reading – one literature fiction text; Section B (25%): Writing – descriptive or narrative writing. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives. Assessment: Section A: Reading – one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text; Section B: Writing – writing to present a viewpoint. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE

Paper 3 Non-exam assessment: Spoken Language: What is assessed: a) presenting, b) responding to questions and feedback, c) use of Standard English. Tasks are set and assessed by the pupils' teachers throughout the course. A separate endorsement is shown on the GCSE certificate.

GCSE English Literature ('Closed book' examinations)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel. Section A Shakespeare: pupils will answer one question on one play. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Section B The 19th-century novel: pupils will answer one question on one novel. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks 40% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry. Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text. Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster. Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes 96 marks 60% of GCSE.