

Key Stage 4 - GCSE

Students follow the AQA English language and English literature specification 2015 which was first examined in 2017. This specification follows the new assessment model of 100% terminal exam.

English Language

Students will sit two exams in GCSE English Language:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing.

Section A: students read one literary fiction text and answer four questions.

Section B: students write either a descriptive or narrative piece of writing.

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives.

Section A: involves reading one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text and answer four questions.

Section B: will be writing to present a viewpoint.

English Literature

Students will sit two exams in GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel.

Section A: Students will answer one question on their Shakespeare play of choice. 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: Students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about the novel as a whole.

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: Students complete a comparison essay from two poems from the anthology

Section C: Students are given an unseen poem which is analysed, then compared with a second poem.

Spoken Language Endorsement

There is also a non-examination assessment in spoken language. Students will prepare and deliver a speech on a topic of their own choosing. They will be encouraged to answer questions and respond to feedback. This attracts a separate endorsement and carries a 0% weighting towards GCSE.

Students are given study texts as required. However, these are for class study only.

Students are not able to use these texts to take notes for future revision. It is therefore important that students obtain their own copies of the chosen modern text, 19th Century novel and Shakespeare play.

Revision guides will be available from the department who have created lots of resources to support these studies

Further advice on revision resources can be obtained from the department.