

KS4 Curriculum – English

Students follow the AQA specification for English Language and English Literature and Year 10 and Year 11 students are taught three Language lessons and three Literature lessons per week. In Year 9, students begin their GCSE Literature studies as they read and analyse their set texts: J.B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls', William Shakespeare's 'Macbeth' and Robert Louis Stevenson's 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'. Students return to these texts in years 10 and 11 in order to consolidate their understanding and apply higher-level thinking around the key contextual issues and critical theories surrounding each text.

GCSE English Language

Students sit two examinations as part of their Language GCSE. Paper 1 is based on a fictional source and paper 2 is based on two non-fiction sources from differing time periods.

Below are examples of the question stems of each question within the GCSE Language papers.

Paper 1 – Fiction

Q1: 'List four things...'

Select and synthesis evidence from different texts.

Q2: 'How does the writer use language...'

Language analysis.

Q3: 'How is the text structured...'

Structural analysis.

Q4: 'How far do you agree...'

Evaluation of a statement and extract.

Q5: 'Write a narrative or description based on this image...'

Creative Writing.

Paper 2 – Non-Fiction

Q1: 'Which statements are true...'

Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.

Q2: 'Write a summary of the differences/similarities...'

Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas. Select and synthesis evidence from different texts.

Q3: 'How does the writer use language to...'

Language analysis.

Q4: 'Compare how the two writers convey their different attitudes/viewpoints to...'

Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how those are conveyed, across two or more texts.

Q5: 'Write a non-fiction article/letter/speech about a given topic'

Non-Fiction Writing.

GCSE English Literature

Students sit two Literature examinations as part of their Literature GCSE.

Paper 1

One question out of a choice of two on **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**.

One question out of a choice of two on **Macbeth**.

The examination is **closed book** and students are required to analyse the extracts and key quotes from the rest of the novel/play; they must also apply **contextual links**.

Paper 2

One question out of a choice of two on **An Inspector Calls**.

One question on the **Conflict Poetry Anthology** we have been studying; one poem is provided and students must choose another to compare it to.

One **unseen poetry** analysis question. Again, this examination is closed book.

Throughout the year students are provided with revision materials and guides for all elements of the Language and Literature courses.

Intervention within the English department is timely and effective: mock examinations take place half-termly and intervention groupings are changed accordingly. Moreover, lessons are based upon data analysis: weakest assessment objectives are addressed until progress has been made.

There are plenty of extra-curricular opportunities on offer for KS4 students with Theatre trips planned as per what is currently on stage in the local area. Students take part in class competitions such as a 'Quote Off' whereby students are tested on their ability to memorise and recall key quotations needed for their closed book Literature examinations.