

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & ENGLISH LITERATURE

What are the key features?

Over the two years, most pupils will sit both English Language and English Literature GCSE. In order to access these courses successfully, students should be willing to work hard, focus in lessons and continue to read at home to improve their vocabulary and reading skills.

Access Pathways students will study English Language GCSE only. This will allow them to develop the essential skills needed for success at their own pace. Through this pathway, students receive more tailored support, enabling them to build confidence in reading, writing, and communication. A strong focus is placed on improving literacy skills, expanding vocabulary, and developing effective reading strategies through regular practice both in lessons and at home.

The English Language GCSE for all students will focus on the study of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. The texts studied will be a range of genres and types; including literature, extended non-fiction and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online). Students will be expected to be able to read, retrieve, analyse and evaluate information from unseen and challenging texts.

The English Literature iGCSE focuses more on our literary heritage; studying and reading novels, plays and poetry and exploring their themes and contexts. Students are expected to cover:

- At least one play by Shakespeare (Macbeth)
- At least one contemporary novel (Of Mice and Men)
- A selection of poetry since 1789.
- Fiction or drama from the British Isles from 1914 onwards (An Inspector Calls)

How is it assessed?

- 100% external, terminal assessment – no coursework or controlled conditions.
- No tiers (higher and foundation) and no modules.
- New 9 to 1 grading scale instead of the traditional A*-U grading.
- Speaking and Listening (now called 'Spoken Language') is a separate qualification and must be completed by all students.

What particular skills are required to succeed?

- **Reading:** the ability to read, understand, analyse and compare the techniques used in any text. Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information, themes and ideas. Evaluate texts critically with appropriate textual reference.
- **Writing:** Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, adapting tone to audience and purpose. Use a range of sentences for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.
- **Spoken Language:** To be able to present in a formal situation using Standard English, as well as listen and respond appropriately to spoken language.

Why study this course?

All students need an English qualification in order to go on to any further education. They also need basic literacy skills in order to communicate effectively in a job or in social situations.

What equipment is required?

Basic school equipment is needed for all lessons. Pupils will need their **own copy** of the Literature texts being studied in class if they wish to annotate and make notes on the text.

If I have any questions which teacher(s) do I ask?

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