

COURSES

AQA English Language (8700) - [more information from AQA here](#)

AQA English Literature (8702) - [more information from AQA here](#)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing

Pupils will read one fiction extract and then answer 4 short questions testing their comprehension, inference and analytical skills. They will analyse language and structure in a text, and find quotations from the text to support their analysis. In the second half of the exam they will write a short narrative or description based on a photograph or written prompt.

Section A: Reading - One unseen literature fiction text. Four questions.

Section B: Writing - Descriptive or narrative writing. One question.

1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Pupils will read two non-fiction extracts and then answer 4 short questions testing their comprehension, inference, analytical and comparison skills. They will summarise the two texts, analyse language in one of the texts, find quotations from the texts to support their ideas and comparison between texts. In the second half of the exam they will write a letter/newspaper article/speech/leaflet etc communicating a viewpoint.

Section A: Reading - Two unseen non-fiction texts. Four questions.

Section B: Non-Fiction writing - One question

1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE

Speaking and Listening Certificate

Speaking and Listening is a compulsory part of the English Language GCSE, which will be assessed as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Not Classified. It will not contribute to the overall result of the GCSE English Language qualification, but will be certificated separately. Pupils prepare a spoken presentation on a specific topic, and respond to questions on it.

ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Texts

We ask that pupils provide their own physical copies of the Literature texts we are studying, so that they can make notes and revise from the text. Communications will be sent from the English Department advising parents and guardians when to buy each text as well as our recommended editions. All Literature exams are closed text therefore, as part of their revision, pupils will learn key quotations.

An Inspector Calls or *Lord of the Flies*

We study these text for a number of reasons: the continued relevance of its themes; the accessibility of the language; the interesting structure; the social and historical context but perhaps, primarily, because they are texts that our pupil's enjoy. These works of fiction spark lively debate and encourages critical thinking and engagement. In the exam, pupils will write an essay in response to a given question about an about a character or theme.

The Nineteenth Century Text

This text is taught in at the beginning of Year 11, after which time the class teacher will be very familiar with their pupils and able to choose a text they think will best meets the needs of the class (list on next page). In the exam, pupils will write an essay linking an idea about a theme or character in a given extract to the rest of the novel.

Macbeth

We study this Shakespeare play as it explores universal themes such as ambition, power, guilt and fate. It also offers insight into human nature, moral dilemmas, and the consequences of one's actions, which are common themes in the other literature we study. Again, many of our pupils enjoy this play - particularly the witches and more gruesome scenes! In the exam, the question takes the same form as for the 19th century text.

Power and Conflict Poetry

We will study this anthology of fifteen poems on the broad themes of power and conflict. The teaching of this unit begins in Year 10 and continues into Year 11. In the exam, pupils will write an essay comparing two poems that they have studied from the AQA anthology (this anthology is provided by the exam board for pupils and does not need to be purchased).

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Section A: Shakespeare (Macbeth)

Section B: 19th Century Novel

1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks 40% of GCSE Closed text

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Section A: Modern Text (An Inspector Calls or Lord of the Flies)

Section B: Poetry: Power and Conflict Anthology

Section C: Unseen Poetry

2 hours 15 minutes 96 marks 60% of GCSE Closed text

Year 10: All pupils begin study of the key knowledge and skills of the English GCSEs, building on the foundation of

HALF TERM

KS3 TOPIC

Autumn 1	The modern text* and unseen poetry
Autumn 2	Pupils continue with the modern text
Spring 1	<i>Macbeth</i>
Spring 2	<i>Macbeth</i> with an introduction to Language Paper 2
Summer 1	Pupils continue with Language Paper 2 study, whilst preparing for their speaking and listening assessment
Summer 2	Pupils conclude speaking and listening assessments and Language Paper 2 study and begin poetry anthology study Year 10 exams

Year 11: All pupils will complete the GCSE courses, revise the content of Year 10 and refine and develop their skills.

HALF TERM

TOPIC

Autumn 1	19th century text* and poetry anthology
Autumn 2	Pupils continue with the study of the 19th century text and the poetry anthology and revision of unseen
Spring 1	poetry Language Paper 1 study and the poetry anthology. Mock examinations (Lang: Paper 1, Lit: C19th, poetry
Spring 2	anthology, modern text) Revision of course in preparation for the summer exams

*These texts are chosen by class teachers from an exam-board selection: the modern text options are *An Inspector Calls*, *Never Let Me Go* or *Lord of the Flies*. The 19th century texts options are *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *A Christmas Carol* or *Frankenstein (1831 edition)*