

KS4 English



An outline

The English Department's expectations

- ✓ Students should be fully equipped for all your lessons
- ✓ Remain focused throughout your lessons
- ✓ Complete all homework
- ✓ Present work neatly at all times
- ✓ Folders with worksheets must be kept tidy and up to date.

Our guarantee

- ✓ The units will be covered thoroughly
- ✓ Students will be assessed frequently in order to prepare for your final exams
- ✓ Lessons will be engaging and interactive.



Overview of the GCSE English Curriculum

Students will be gaining **two** GCSEs:

- **English Language (2 exams)**
- **English Literature (2 exams)**

English Language

- 2 exams
- Both papers test students' reading and writing skills.

They are awarded marks based on the success criteria known as **Assessment Objectives** known as 'AOs'.

AO1:

Identify explicit information or ideas

Synthesis of explicit and implicit ideas and information.

Paper 1

Question 1: Usually asks to list 4 things based on an extract.
For example: Read paragraph 2 of the article *Gardner's for life* and:

- List 4 things that gardeners have to do before they plant crops.

(4 marks)

Paper 2

Question 1 and 2: True or False statements...

(4 marks)

Write a summary...

(8 marks)

AO2:

Explain, comment, analyse

Paper 1

Question 2: How does the writer's use of language...

(8 marks)

Question 3: How does the writer structure...

(8 marks)

Paper 2

Question 3: How does the writer's use of language...

(12 marks)

AO3:

Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, and how they are conveyed.

Paper 1	Paper 2
Not tested	Question 4: How the writers present... (16 marks)

AO4: Evaluate texts critically

Paper 1	Paper 2
To what extent do you agree? (20 marks)	Not tested

Writing AO5/6:

1. Communicate clearly
2. Organise information
3. Use a range of vocabulary and sentences
4. Accurate spelling and punctuation

Paper 1	Paper 2
Descriptive or narrative writing (40 marks)	Students write about their own views (40 marks)

Overview of English Language exams:

Paper 1	Paper 2
<p>Read 1 fictional extract</p> <p>Select 4 pieces of information (4 marks)</p> <p>Comment on language (8 marks)</p> <p>Comment on structure (8 marks)</p> <p>Discuss a statement (20 marks)</p> <p>Descriptive or narrative writing (40 marks)</p>	<p>Read 2 non-fiction extracts</p> <p>Select the true statements (4 marks)</p> <p>Write a summary (8 marks)</p> <p>Comment on language (12 marks)</p> <p>Examine the writers' presentation (16 marks)</p> <p>Students write about their own views (40 marks)</p>

English Language

In addition to these two papers, students have to complete a Speaking and Listening assessment in year 11. Although this carries no marks towards the GCSE, it must be completed, and will be awarded a separate mark of “fail,” “pass”, “merit” or “distinction” from the exam board

Students will prepare for Paper 1 and Paper 2 throughout years 10 and 11. They will complete the Speaking and Listening assessment in year 11.

To help your daughter prepare for these exams, you should encourage her to read widely, both fiction and non-fiction, and to keep a glossary of new vocabulary that she encounters.

English Literature

2 exams

Paper 1 (studied in year 10):

- **Shakespeare play:** *Macbeth*
- **The 19th-century novel:** Robert Louis Stevenson *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Paper 2 (studied in year 11):

- **Drama:** *An Inspector Calls*
- The poetry anthology: *Love and Relationships Cluster*
- Unseen poetry

Paper 1 ~ How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- **64 marks**
- 40% of GCSE

Paper 1 ~ Questions

- **Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer **one** question on *Macbeth*. 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:** students will answer **one** question on *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2 ~ How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- **96 marks**
- 60% of GCSE

Paper 2 ~ Questions

- **Section A Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or **drama text** (*An Inspector Calls*).
- **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 (*Love and relationships*).
- **Section C Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

To help your daughter prepare for English literature, you might consider buying her a personal copy of *Macbeth*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* and *An Inspector Calls* so that she can annotate them. This will be particularly helpful for revision purposes.

It can also be helpful to look at study guides, websites and film adaptations, and discuss these together.



If you have any queries about the course, please contact:

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