

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature



ASSOCIATE LEAD FOR ENGLISH: MRS DACEY



Course aims

- ▶ To enable the students to:
- ▶ Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- ▶ Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- ▶ Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- ▶ Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- ▶ Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- ▶ Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.
- ▶ Read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- ▶ Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- ▶ Develop the habit of reading widely and often
- ▶ Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- ▶ Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English



Course Outline

Language Paper 1

1 hour and 45 minutes
80 marks

4, 8, 20 and 40 mark questions

**Paper 1-Explorations in
Creative reading and writing**

Section A: Reading

- They will have to answer 4 questions that demonstrate a range of skills, including structure, analysis and evaluation on one unseen fiction text.

Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing. There is a choice of two tasks.

Language Paper 2

1 hour and 45 minutes
80 marks

4,8,12,16,40 mark questions

**Paper 2- Writer's Viewpoints
and Perspectives**

Section A: Reading

- Students will read two unseen texts: one 19th century text and one 20th century text. They will have to answer 4 questions that demonstrate a range of skills including comparison, analysis and exploring ideas and perspectives.

Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint. This could be in a number of forms including a letter, an article or a speech.

Literature Paper 1

1 hour and 45 minutes
64 marks

34 & 30 mark questions

Section A Shakespeare: Students will answer one question on Shakespeare's '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 Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle's 'The Sign of Four'. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Literature Paper 2

2 hours and 15 minutes
96 marks

34,30 & 32 mark questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'

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. We currently study the Power and Conflict cluster of the AQA anthology.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.



Links to other subjects

- ▶ English Language and Literature are gateway subjects and, as such, will compliment and enhance your understanding of any other GCSE subject that you study.
- ▶ The communication skills that you will hone in English will allow you to engage with your other subjects on a deeper level, whilst ensuring that you can accurately and authoritatively express your ideas to your peers and teachers.
- ▶ As part of your English courses you will study texts from a range of time periods, countries, viewpoints, religions and backgrounds, many of which will have links to other GCSE subjects that you study.



Holcombe Habits

- ▶ Empathy and understanding is developed through analysing viewpoints expressed and the contexts that shaped those viewpoints in order to understand the layers of meaning contained in a variety of texts.
- ▶ Questioning and posing problems are developed through the analysis of both written and spoken texts and the identification of techniques that students can then apply to their own writing.
- ▶ Creative thinking is developed by being encouraged to think outside the box, to write for different audiences and present those audiences with the most sophisticated experience possible.
- ▶ Accuracy, clarity and precision is developed through a rigorous focus on choosing and presenting the best of your ideas, editing your own writing as well as that of your peers and not being afraid to experiment with different written forms.



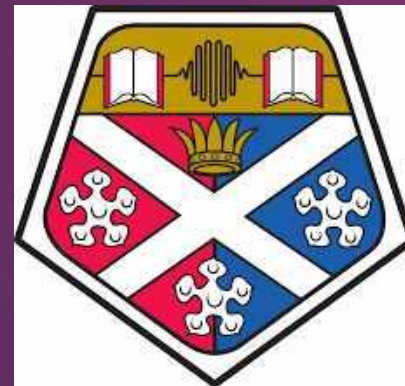
Skills needed to succeed in English

- ▶ Creativity and enthusiasm.
- ▶ Good cognitive skills – non-routine problem solving, response inhibition, critical thinking and pattern recognition.
- ▶ The ability to work independently and with others.
- ▶ Effective communication skills – from active listening, oral and written communication to teamwork and individual presentation skills.
- ▶ Good time management skills, or be willing to develop them.
- ▶ An open and enquiring mind, to want to investigate the unknown and to present your findings.
- ▶ A willingness to read a range of texts beyond the classroom.
- ▶ An interest in the wider world and a desire to explore it through both written and spoken texts.



Top ten universities to study English at

1. Oxford
2. Durham
3. St Andrews
4. Cambridge
5. Strathclyde
6. Birmingham
7. Loughborough
8. Bolton
9. Royal Holloway
10. Exeter



Career Pathways

- ▶ Higher education places a great deal of importance on having strong English grades, valuing both English Literature and English Language. This is due to their focus on extended writing, the ability to read widely and engage with the texts on multiple levels and the focus on formulating an argument. Employers also look favourably upon English for the same reasons.

Some careers that particularly suit students who are successful at English include:

- ▶ Writer
- ▶ Lawyer
- ▶ Broadcaster
- ▶ Advertising executive
- ▶ Publisher
- ▶ Public Relations officer
- ▶ Teacher
- ▶ Marketing executive
- ▶ Journalist

