

English Language

The English Language course completed in years 10 and 11 follows the AQA specification. Classes are mixed ability. The students will sit two examinations testing a range of skills.

Paper 1 is entitled 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing' and the students will be answer 4 questions, of increasing complexity, on an unseen prose passage from a work of fiction. Students will then be asked to complete a creative writing task which can either be a description or a story. 24 marks are available for content and organisation. 16 marks are available for spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. There will be a stimulus picture in the examination for this. The examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. This paper is worth 50% of the course.

Paper 2 is entitled 'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives'. In this examination, students will answer 4 questions, of increasing complexity, on two unseen prose passages from non-fiction. The passages could be letters, magazine articles, newspaper articles, autobiographies, blogs and so on. There will be a writing task which will ask the student to express their opinion or point of view on a topic. 24 marks are available for content and organisation. 16 marks are available for spelling, punctuation and sentence structure. This paper is worth 50% of the course.

Finally, there is a compulsory speaking and listening element to the qualification. Students will present to the class a formal speech on a topic chosen by the teacher. This will be graded as 'Pass', 'Merit' or 'Distinction' and will NOT impact on the final grade.

The qualification is graded from 9-1 with 1 being the lowest grade and 9 the highest grade.

English Literature

The English Literature course completed in year 10 and year 11 follows the AQA specification. This course is completed in conjunction with the English Language course and is also mixed ability. The students will sit two examinations that will test their ability to write cogently and perceptively about 4 texts they have studied in class and two unseen poems.

Paper 1 is entitled 'Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel'. Students will study 'Macbeth' and a 19th century novel chosen from the specification by the teacher. The paper consists of two essay questions. The students are given a passage to explore for each text, but they are also tested on the knowledge of the text as a whole. The examination is 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

Paper 2 is entitled 'Modern Texts and Poetry'. Students will study a modern novel, 'Lord of the Flies' and 15 poems from the Power and Conflict anthology that AQA supply. They will also study a range of poems in preparation for the unseen element of the paper.

The examination is split into three sections. Section A is an essay question on 'Lord of the Flies'. The students will have a choice of two essay questions, but unlike in paper 1, they will not have a passage to work with. Section B is an essay question in which the students compare two poems from the anthology. One poem is printed, the other poem is chosen by the student. Section C is the unseen poetry section and has two questions. The students will answer an essay question on one poem. The second question is a short essay (3 paragraphs) in which the students compare the two unseen poems. This paper is 2 hours and 15 minutes long. This examination is closed book and is much more rigorous than previous English Literature specifications. Students will not have access to copies of plays, prose or poems in the examination. It is essential that all texts are read in preparation for the examination.

The qualification is graded from 9-1 with 1 being the lowest grade and 9 the highest grade.