

# GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Specification Details: AQA English Language and Edexcel English Literature

Students in KS4 are working towards two GCSEs in English. They are following the same route and will be entered for both English Language and English Literature at the end of Year 11. Both courses are assessed through a final examination worth 100% of the final grade. Students will benefit from focussing their attention and time on developing a detailed knowledge of the literature set texts, practising key skills and revising how to answer all questions.

## Course Overview:

**The GCSE English Language qualification has two papers.**

### Paper One: fiction

- Four questions testing reading skills using one unseen fiction extract taken from the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century
- One creative writing task: description or narrative
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes.

### Paper Two: nonfiction

- Four questions testing reading skills using two unseen nonfiction texts, including one from the 19th Century
- One writing task: writing to present a point of view
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes.

**The GCSE English Literature qualification has two papers as well.**

### Paper One: Shakespeare and post-1914 literature

- One question in two parts on *Romeo and Juliet*
- One essay question on *An Inspector Calls*
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes.

### Paper Two: 19<sup>th</sup> century novel and poetry

- One question in two parts on *A Christmas Carol*
- One essay comparing two **poems** from the conflict anthology we have studied
- One question comparing two **unseen poems**
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours 15 minutes.

## Support and revision opportunities

The English Curriculum Area provides a range of revision materials and guidance on revision strategies. Students should use these to revise thoroughly for the regular in-class practice exams as well as the more formal mock exams that will take place over the course of the two years. In addition, we highly recommend the purchasing of the literature set texts and their associated study guides to support revision.

Online Resources: where needed, resources will be provided through our online platforms, primarily Class Notebook, to ensure all students have access to their learning delivered in class this year.

Home learning: students will be provided with our weekly *Aspiring for Greightness* home learning that provides 8 weekly tasks to support success in the summer by revisiting key skills and the literature texts.

Bedrock: this is an invaluable resource that is available to all students, and it will help develop academic language and improve students' communication, both written and verbal. This programme is available from home as well as in school and is part of our 8 weekly tasks to improve the chances of success.

## How parents/carers can help

1. Encourage your child to discuss their learning with you, including what they feel are their strengths and which areas of English they find most difficult.
2. Encourage your child to read regularly, both fiction and nonfiction. If they are not avid readers, focus on reading short extracts, the equivalent of a side of A4. For nonfiction, use a news app like BBC News to keep up to date with what is happening in society to inform better viewpoints on current topics.
3. Encourage your child to develop their vocabulary by looking up new words that they come across in their reading or whilst viewing content, including their synonyms and antonyms.
4. Encourage your child to focus on their learning and take the opportunity available to them at KS4 to reach their potential; through this, students will start the next chapter of their lives following GCSE in the best possible position for success.
5. Support your child in establishing an independent study routine and revision schedule at home.
6. Test your child on their knowledge and understanding of the plot, characters, settings and themes of their literature texts.
7. If possible, provide your child with a quiet place of their own to revise in. Encourage them to use it effectively by keeping their mobile phone and tablet in another room during their revision time.

## Recommended Revision Guides

If you would like to buy revision guides, we recommend either CGP or York Notes (as seen below). All of these guides are widely available from a choice of online retailers. When you buy, please check that the revision guide is suitable for the new GCSEs (9-1) as they often include example exam questions and mark schemes.

