

English Language and Literature

Sally Ingham, Head of English
Gillian Rea, Teacher of English as well as Head of Drama
Julie Calvert, Teacher of Foundation Group

One of the **main aims** of English is **to foster a love of reading and writing** and a **confidence in discussion** and **the giving of presentations** and **develop the skills** required to do well in this subject.

KS3 Year 7 and 8

All students in year 7 and 8 are following the National Curriculum, with a range of modules created to ensure students have the opportunity to develop the following necessary skills which are further developed and assessed in KS4:

Writing skills:

1. **Planning and drafting**
2. Choosing **vocabulary & devices** carefully to suit form, style, purpose and audience.
3. **Organising** and **linking** ideas so writing is logical & fluent using **paragraphs** to aid meaning.
4. **Constructing sentences well** so they make sense (are grammatically correct).
5. **Punctuating accurately.**
6. **Spelling correctly.**

Reading skills:

1. **Summarising** texts – fiction and non-fiction.
2. **Interpreting** texts – understanding explicit and implicit meanings.
3. **Analysing** texts – commenting on how the words chosen and devices used contribute to the meaning.
4. **Evaluating** texts – commenting on if and how they are effective.
5. **Supporting points** made with reference to texts and being able use quotations.
6. **Comparing** texts.

Speaking and Listening Skills:

1. **Presenting** information and ideas in a formal setting.
2. **Discussing** issues.
3. **Using standard English**

GCSE English Language and Literature

Exam Board: Edexcel (Pearson)

The courses for English Language and Literature run over 3 years. Exams are sat at the end of Year 11.

English skills are essential in the modern world, and a GCSE in English is a particularly essential qualification for post-16 courses and employment so there is a strong focus on ensuring the students are **prepared for exams** so they can achieve or exceed their target grades.

All students taking GCSE English Language now also have to sit the Literature exam. This may be accepted as an English qualification for entry to A levels, other courses and jobs.

The grading system for GCSEs is no longer grade A* - G but instead students will be awarded a number, with 1 being the lowest and 9 the highest.

A Functional English qualification is also available for those who cannot cope with GCSE.

Students are taught in **groups** broadly based on ability, determined by their performance in assessments, although other factors also determine groupings such as group dynamics, students' style of learning and the pace at which a student works.

ASSESSMENT

The main aim of assessment is **diagnostic** to help the teacher and students be aware of what students are competent in and what requires further teaching and learning. **Feedback** on written work is constructive, acknowledging strengths as well as providing clear and focused comments on how to improve, with follow up work to help embed what is required to make further progress. Learning and progress is also encouraged through drawing on a variety of resources and through group and one-to-one support provided by both the students' peers and the teacher.

The **GCSE qualifications** for English and Literature are **based on 100% final exams**. There is no longer any form of coursework or controlled assessments which contribute to the final results and students cannot take notes or copies of texts studied into the exam. Students will need to be familiar with texts studied. There will be **termly exam-style assessments** requiring revision in order to prepare students for these terminal exams.

Students must also demonstrate **speaking and listening** skills. They must do a presentation which is assessed by the teachers but also submitted to the exam board on tape. They are given a separate mark for this to the reading and writing exam. Speaking tasks must be undertaken and assessed to be awarded a GCSE English Language qualification, even though the mark does not contribute to the GCSE English Language grade.

English Language exams

Students sit two exam papers, both worth 50% of the final mark.

1. **English Paper 1:** 1 hour 45 minutes
Students i) answer questions on unseen fiction ii) write a descriptive piece.
2. **English Paper 2:** 2 hours
Students i) answer questions on two unseen non-fiction pieces
ii) write a piece discussing an issue in a persuasive way.

English Literature exams

The texts read for Literature are prescribed by the exam board and are chosen from the lists below.

Literature Paper 1 (1 hour 45 mins) worth 40% of the final marks.

1. **One Shakespeare play:** e.g. *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest*, *The Merchant of Venice*
We currently study “Macbeth”.
The exam asks questions on a) an extract b) the whole text
(recommended time spent on this - 55 minutes)
2. **The modern text studied will be one or two of the following: either a play:** *An Inspector Calls*, *A Taste of Honey* or *The Curious Incident of the Dog at Night Time*, or a novel: *Animal Farm*, *Lord of the Flies*, or *Anita and Me*.
We currently study “An Inspector Calls” by Priestley.
The exam involves writing an essay;
two essay titles are given – students choose ONE.
(recommended time spent on this - 50 minutes).

Literature Paper 2 (2 hours and 15 minutes) worth 60% of the final marks.

3. **One 19th Century novel:** e.g. *Austen’s Pride and Prejudice*, *Bronte’s Jane Eyre*, *Dickens’ A Christmas Carol* or *Great Expectations*, *Stevenson’s Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *Shelley’s Frankenstein* or *Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes*
We currently study “A Christmas Carol” by Dickens.
The exam asks questions on a) an extract b) the whole text
(recommended time spent on this - 55 minutes)
4. An analysis and comparison of poems studied
Poetry studied: 15 poems from 1790 to today in the Edexcel anthology on *Love and Relationships* and/or *Power and Conflict*.
We currently study love and relationships.
The exam requires students to compare a named poem from the anthology with another of their choice.
(recommended time spent on this - 35 minutes)

5. An analysis and comparison of two unseen poems.
(recommended time spent on this - 45 minutes)

Theatre Trips

In order to support students in their studies but also enrich their appreciation of literature, we organise several theatre trip a year.

Year 7 and 8 usually go to a pantomime or equivalent production around Christmas.

Also we often book to see the outdoor promenade organised by the Duke's Theatre at Williamson Park in Lancaster.

Years 9 – 11 get opportunities to see productions of the texts studied at GCSE – “Macbeth”, “An Inspector Calls” and “A Christmas Carol”, often having chance to see each of them both in school and at theatres such as at Lancaster, Manchester or Bradford.

In addition there are opportunities to see other productions eg. Miss Rea regularly organises to see “A Woman in Black” and also year 9 and 10 students who go on the London trip attend a West End show.

Other Enrichment Activities

Years 7 and 8:

- working with a publisher or author on story writing.
- entering national poetry competitions
- participating in a writing project related to the Holocaust
- participating in workshops on themes eg. identity
- publishing work in the local magazine.

Years 9 – 11:

- doing presentations in assemblies.
- doing presentations to groups in the community
- using film to enhance understanding of texts