*Course Summary – AQA English Language GCSE*



Information about the Course

This course is designed to inspire and motivate, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are accessible to all. Enabling all to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. Assessment will be through completion of two equally-balanced exam papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way at the end of the course. Papers relate reading sources to the topic and theme of writing tasks. The reading sources act as stimulus for writing tasks, providing students with a clear route through each paper.

**Summary of Content and Units:**

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| **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**  looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. | **+** | **Paper 2: Writers'**  **Viewpoints and**  **Perspectives**  looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time. |
| **What's assessed**  **Section A: Reading**   * one literature fiction text   **Section B: Writing**   * descriptive or narrative writing | **What’s assessed**  **Section A: Reading**   * one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text   **Section B: Writing**   * writing to present a viewpoint |
| **Assessed**   * written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes * 80 marks * 50% of GCSE | **Assessed**   * written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes * 80 marks * 50% of GCSE |
| **Questions**  **Reading (40 marks) (25%)**  – one single text   * 1 short form question   1. x 4 marks) * 2 longer form questions   (2 x 8 marks)   * 1 extended question   1. x 20 marks)   **Writing (40 marks) (25%)**   * 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) | **Questions**  **Reading (40 marks) (25%)**  – two linked texts   * 1 short form question   1. x 4 marks) * 2 longer form questions   1. x 8, 1 x 12 marks) * 1 extended question   1. x 16 marks)   **Writing (40 marks) (25%)**   * 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) |

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| **Non-examination**  **Assessment: Spoken**  **Language** |
| **What's assessed**  (AO7–AO9)   * presenting * responding to questions and feedback * use of Standard English |
| **Assessed**   * teacher set throughout course * marked by teacher * separate endorsement   (0% weighting of GCSE) |

*Course summary – AQA English Literature GCSE*

Information about the Course

The English Literature GCSE course has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate, no matter what the level of ability, while supporting and developing creativity. Assessment strategies supports’ achievement in an untiered, closed book context through the use of extract-based questions in the assessment of the 19th-century novel and the Shakespeare plays in two examinations at the end of the course.

**Summary of Content and Units Covered:**

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| **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel** | **+** | **Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry** |
| **What's assessed**   * Shakespeare * The 19th-century novel | **What's assessed**   * Modern texts * Poetry * Unseen poetry |
| **How it's assessed**   * written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes * 64 marks * 40% of GCSE | **How it's assessed**   * written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes * 96 marks * 60% of GCSE |
| **Questions**  **Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on their play of choice. 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 their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. | **Questions**  **Section A Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.  **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.  **Section C Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem. |



