

GCSE ENGLISH

The department offers different pathways to academic qualifications, depending on the needs of the student. For most this will be the Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Language qualification outlined below. For others, this may be Functional Skills or IELTS. For all, the emphasis is on developing the skills needed for further academic study in any subject, through tailored, thematic content that allows the students to share ideas and activities whilst pursuing individual development to an appropriate qualification.

Students may also be entered for the Edexcel GCSE 9-1 Literature qualification, depending on their interest, application and ability. The texts are studied by all in Year 10 as part of the thematic basis for their Language course.

What will I do on the course?

Reading, writing, speaking and listening are the key areas that will be developed over two years. Working as an individual, in small peer groups, whole class or whole year groups, students will participate in a range of activities designed to engage and challenge them on a variety of topics. These are thematically organised, using texts and extracts drawn from both classic literature (including Macbeth, A Christmas Carol, An Inspector Calls and poetry) and modern non-fiction (opinion columns, magazine articles, travel writing, and so forth).

Students have access to the Office 365 suite, which includes the Sharepoint site for English, where tailored resources are made available for download. Written work is uploaded through Turnitin, the online assignment marking system used by the department. Students will also be enrolled in www.vocabulary.com and given access to vocabulary lists for the many articles and texts used as part of the course. Tablets or laptops are the most efficient way to annotate extracts, write assignments and check assessments.

Course Content

Students will:

- Read a wide range of texts (including classic literature), independently and as part of a group, in depth and with good understanding; apply critical and evaluative judgements supported by evidence; make connections across their reading; discuss and explain their understanding and ideas; use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately; use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately; acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside 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



EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) in English Language (1ENO)

How is the course assessed?

The course is externally assessed with two examinations at the end of Year 11.

Component 1 (40%): Fiction and Imaginative Writing (1 hour 45 minutes).

- Reading questions on an unseen 19th-century fiction extract. An imaginative writing task on one of two questions

Component 2 (60%): Non-fiction and Transactional Writing (2 hours 5 minutes).

- Reading questions on both 20th-century and 21st-century non-fiction extracts
- A transactional writing task from a choice of two - (letter, newspaper article, guide, etc)

Spoken language will be reported as a separate grade on the student's certificate.

What can I do with this course?

English Language is a basic requirement for further academic study and a career. The emphasis on understanding and analysis of writing provides a solid foundation not only for careers such as Journalism, Business, Law but also for everyday life – checking agreements and contracts, understanding bias.

EDEXCEL GCSE (9-1) in English Literature (1ETO)

What will I do on the course?

The texts for study include Macbeth, A Christmas Carol or Great Expectations, An Inspector Calls and an anthology of poetry.

Students will be expected to read and begin annotating the texts in advance of the lessons. There will be discussion in pairs, groups or whole class to share ideas and further develop a personal response to the texts.

How is the course assessed?

The course is externally assessed with two examinations at the end of Year 11, both equally weighted (50% each). Component 1 (50%): Shakespeare and Post-1914 Literature (1 hour 45 minutes).

- A two part question on the Shakespeare text
- An essay on the Post-1914 Literature text

Component 2 (50%): 19th-century Novel and Poetry since 1789 (2 hours 15 minutes)

- A two part question on the 19th-century novel
- A comparison of two poems from the Anthology
- A comparison of two unseen contemporary poems

