

ENGLISH

KS4 (Edexcel English Literature & AQA English Language)

Curriculum Overview

Students follow AQA for GCSE English Language and EDEXCEL for GCSE English Literature. In Year 10, our focus is on the Literature GCSE and students will study the following texts: Poetry Anthology, 'A Christmas Carol', 'Macbeth' and 'An Inspector Calls'. Throughout each unit, there will be exam style assessments and GCSE Language Writing tasks. There will be practise mock exams once a term on one text so that students are prepared for their end of Year 10 exams. In Year 11, the focus will be on the Language GCSE and then revisiting the Literature texts to hone and deepen understanding and to also ensure there are no gaps in learning. Assessments will replicate exam questions and will be under timed conditions.

YR10



Course Content and Skill Development

Students begin their Literature studies with the Poetry Anthology and Unseen poetry as these texts are the most accessible and lend themselves to the teaching of key skills such as: analysing writers' methods and critical essay writing. The following unit is the 19th Century novel: 'A Christmas Carol' which allows for the consolidation of key skills as well as building on the themes of 'Power and Conflict' raised in the anthology study. 'Macbeth' is the subsequent focus as it again builds on key analytical skills and as the most challenging of the texts, students need to be familiar and confident when approaching this text. Finally, building on student understanding of dramatic methods, the final text will be 'An Inspector Calls'. Context is heavily weighted in this unit (26 marks out of 80) so it is imperative that this discrete knowledge is taught later on in the GCSE so that this information can be effectively recalled in Year 11.

In Year 11, the focus is on GCSE English Language and the key skills required for the Reading and Writing sections of each of the papers. Students will see that their critical language skills can be transferred to the unseen extracts on the Reading sections. Students will also build the descriptive and persuasive writing topics from Year 10 and Key Stage 3. There will be mock exams for each of the exam papers for both GCSEs and revision of Literature and Language will begin in February of Year 11 ensuring that students deepen their understanding of texts and can apply key skills in exam conditions.



Specification Links

Language: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>

Literature: https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/English%20Literature/2015/specification-and-sample-assesment/9781446914359_GCSE_2015_L12_Englit.pdf

Home Learning Expectations

Further wider reading, revision as well as materials designed to support or extend the learning in lessons can be found on Google Classroom.

When and how assessment of learning will happen

There will be frequent exam style essays and writing tasks (Language GCSE) throughout each unit. With a final assessment under exam conditions at the end of each unit. Assessments will be tailored to the needs of each class based on previous assessments. Students will have end of Y10 exams which will focus on one full Literature exam paper. There will be further mock exam windows in the November and January of Year 11 as well as other practise exam opportunities.

Useful Information

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4> - English Language

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z2whg82> - English Literature

Best Revision Websites

- Notes and tests from BBC Bitesize
- Revision guides from englishbiz.co.uk
- Various resources from revisionworld.com
- Various resources from getrevising.co.uk
- 'gcse english language revision' Google search

Exam Forums

- GCSE English Language Exam Revision
- Q&A Forum - Ask a Question - StudyWise

