

GCSE ENGLISH CURRICULUM (2020/2021)

Curriculum Overview: *What Will Students Study?*



English Literature (AQA 8702)

English Literature will build on the skills developed at KS3 to enable students to respond to a range of literature texts including poetry, plays and novels. Through literature, students have a chance to develop culturally and acquire knowledge of the best that has been thought and written. Studying GCSE English Literature should encourage students to read widely for pleasure, and prepare them for studying literature at a higher level.

All exams are closed book. This means that students do NOT have a copy of the text in the exam; they must work from memory.

Students will be assessed through two exam papers in Summer 2021:

- **Paper 1: Shakespeare & the 19th Century Novel (1hr 45min)** – worth 40% of the GCSE

Texts:

- *Romeo & Juliet* by William Shakespeare
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

- **Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2hrs 15min)** – worth 60% of the GCSE

Texts:

- *An Inspector Calls* play by J.B. Priestley
- AQA Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology
- Unseen Poetry



English Language (AQA 8700)

English Language challenges students to read and understand a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. This unit will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying a range of techniques and analysing texts.

Students will be assessed through two exam papers in Summer 2021:

- **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1hr 45min)** – 50% of the GCSE
- **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (1hr 45min)** – 50% of the GCSE
- **Spoken Language Certificate:** Students must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic where they will be assigned a **pass, merit or distinction**

By the end of the two-year course, students should become:

- Confident in working with information and ideas – their own and those of others
- Responsible for themselves, responsive to and respectful of others
- Reflective as learners, developing their ability to learn
- Innovative and equipped for new and future challenges
- Engaged intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference

Year 10 Curriculum

| | What is being taught? | | Why? | Blended Learning |
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| | Main English Lessons (4hrs a week) | Skills Rotation Lessons (1hr a week) | | Homework |
| Half Term 1 | Transition Unit (2 weeks) | | The focus will be on well-being and reflection to give students a chance to ease back into their learning. | |
| | English Literature Paper 2: <i>An Inspector Calls</i> (Play) | Free Writing (<i>English Language Paper 1 and 2 skills</i>) | <p><i>An Inspector Calls</i> is one of the core texts for English Literature Paper 2. Whilst studying this text, students will develop their critical reading, comprehension and analysis skills. They will also develop their ability to present their opinions in a clear and coherent way by writing effectively about the key ideas in the text.</p> <p>Free writing will help students to build confidence in their creative writing ability and practise the skills needed for their English Language GCSE.</p> | GCSE POD: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes - Context, plot, character and theme.</i> |
| October Half Term | | | | |
| Half Term 2 | English Literature Paper 1: <i>A Christmas Carol</i> (Novella) | Free Writing (<i>English Language Paper 1 and 2 skills</i>) | <p><i>A Christmas Carol</i> is one of the core texts for English Literature Paper 1. Whilst studying this text, students will develop their critical reading, comprehension and analysis skills. They will also develop their ability to present their opinions in a clear and</p> | GCSE POD: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes - Context, plot, character and theme</i> |

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| | | | coherent way by writing effectively about the key ideas in the text. | |
| Christmas Holidays | | | | |
| Half Term 3 | English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing | Spoken Language Certificate: Oracy, debate and vocabulary unit | <p>The aim of English Language Paper 1 is to engage students in a range of creative texts and inspire them to write creatively themselves.</p> <p>The oracy, debate and vocabulary unit will help students to develop the skills required for the GCSE Spoken Language certificate. The aim is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills.</p> | GCSE POD: Reading and writing skills (Fiction). |
| February Half Term | | | | |
| Half Term 4 | English Language Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives | Spoken Language Certificate: Oracy, debate and vocabulary unit | The aim of English Language Paper 2 is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. | GCSE POD: Reading and writing skills (Fiction) |
| Easter Holidays | | | | |
| Half Term 5 | English Literature Paper 2: Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology | Unseen Poetry | Students will study 15 poems from the AQA Power and Conflict cluster so they are prepared to write about any of them in the examination. By the end of the unit, they should be able to analyse and compare key features of | GCSE Pod: Check and Challenge quizzes – Power and Conflict and Unseen poetry |

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| | | | <p>the poems such as their content, theme, structure and use of language.</p> <p>The study of unseen poetry will allow students to experience a wide range of poetry in order to develop their ability to closely analyse poems.</p> | |
| May Half Term | | | | |
| Half Term 6 | English Literature Paper 2: Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology | English Language Paper 1 and 2 Skills | Students will continue to study the poems in the Power and Conflict cluster alongside revising key skills for English Language Paper 1 and 2. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes – Power and Conflict and English Language</i> |
| Summer Holidays | | | | |

Year 11 Curriculum

| | What is being taught? | Why? | Blended Learning |
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| Half Term 1 | English Literature Paper 2: Power and Conflict Poetry (2 weeks) | Students will revise the 15 poems in the power and conflict cluster so they are prepared to write about any of them in the examination. They will be taught how to write comparative poetry responses by analysing and comparing key features of the poems. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenges quizzes– Power and Conflict</i> |
| | English Literature Paper 1: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> (Play) | <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> is one of the core texts for English Literature Paper 1. During the study of this text, students will develop their critical reading, comprehension and analysis skills. They will also develop their ability to present their opinions in a clear and coherent way by writing effectively about the key ideas in the text. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes – Context, plot, character and theme</i> |
| October Half Term | | | |
| Half Term 2 | <i>A Christmas Carol</i> and English Language Paper 1 revision | Students will revisit <i>A Christmas Carol</i> alongside revising English Language 1 skills. Here, students will use interleaving - a process where students mix multiple topics while they study in order to improve their learning. Interleaving leads to better long-term retention and improved ability to transfer learned knowledge. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes and Assignments</i> |

| Christmas Holidays | | | |
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| Half Term 3 | <i>An Inspector Calls</i> and English Language Paper 2 revision | Students will revisit <i>An Inspector Calls</i> alongside revising English Language Paper 2 skills. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes and Assignments</i> |
| February Half Term | | | |
| Half Term 4 | <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and Poetry revision (<i>Power and Conflict</i> and <i>Unseen poetry</i>) | Students will revisit <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> alongside revising poetry skills. | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes and Assignments</i> |
| Easter Holidays | | | |
| Half Term 5 | Exam preparation: Targeted revision for both Literature and Language | | GCSE Pod: <i>Check and Challenge quizzes and Assignments</i> |
| May Half Term | | | |
| Half Term 6 | Exams | | |
| <p>Recommended Revision Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A copy of each Literature text they are studying so students can then make their own notes and annotations –<i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J.B. Priestley <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> by William Shakespeare • CGP revisions guides and flashcards for each text. Available to purchase from Parent Pay at a discounted price • GCSE Pod (app available for phones/ tablets/iPads) • BBC Bitesize website • Seneca Learning website • Eastbury SharePoint – Lessons and resources will be uploaded here • All homework will be uploaded on Show My Homework - students should be accessing this regularly. | | | |

