



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Ofsted said: "In lessons, there is a calm and purposeful learning environment." May 2026

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE SPECIFICATION AT A GLANCE

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Candidates will pursue a course leading to the award of two separate GCSE 9-1 qualifications at the end of Year 11. These GCSEs are assessed entirely by examinations of which there will be four in total.

GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing
Written paper – 1 hour 45 minutes – 50%

Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives
Written paper – 1 hour 45 minutes – 50%

Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language

GCSE English Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel
Written paper - 1 hour 45 minutes – 40%

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
Written paper - 2 hours 15 minutes – 60%.

SUPPORTING TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

Various theatre trips relevant to the texts that students study.

ENGLISH COURSE INFORMATION

As a compulsory subject, GCSE English Language provides students with the essential tools of communication to enable them to succeed in school and beyond. English Literature helps students gain a love and appreciation for a wide range of literature as well as developing skills of analysis.

What will my child gain from English?

English is the study of language and having a command of the spoken and written word benefits all other GCSE subjects. In addition, reading a range of literature sharpens analytical skills as well as gaining knowledge about culture, historical contexts and the human condition. English can help young people to:

- Work independently
- Be creative
- Think critically and logically
- Communicate ideas with confidence
- Carry out research and analysis
- Appreciate a range of important literature
- Develop high standards of written expression

Where will English take my child?

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature allow students to take the next step to A-Levels; a secure grade in these subjects is vital to access most other courses.

Most employers also expect a good grade in English Language as a minimum requirement and there are a wide range of skills developed in this subject which can lead to many professions in many areas which can include:

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|---------------------|--------------|
| • Sports journalist | • Newsreader |
| • Lawyer | • Actor |
| • Politician | • Teacher |

Further reading/ suggested revision materials:

BBC GCSE Bitesize

Online study guide Spark Notes

A range of CGP revisions guides are also available
on all the texts covered at GCSE

For further information, please contact:

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