



ENGLISH

GCSE

CORE SUBJECT

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

SPECIFICATION CODE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE – 8700

SPECIFICATION CODE: ENGLISH LITERATURE - 8702

WHY TAKE THIS COURSE?

The aims of both English Language and English Literature courses at Key Stage 4 are to develop the students' ability to use English effectively and accurately in written and oral contexts and to introduce the students to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

English Language GCSE is a basic requirement for all Further and Higher Education courses and for most training courses.

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The aims of both English Language and English Literature courses are:

- To develop the students' ability to use English effectively and accurately in written and oral contexts.
- To introduce the students to a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

English Language

PAPER 1: EXPLORATIONS IN CREATIVE READING AND WRITING

Will test understanding of literary fiction texts and writing to describe or narrate.

PAPER 2: WRITERS' VIEWPOINTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Will test understanding of non-fiction texts and writing to argue or persuade.

There will be an additional and separate endorsement of spoken language.

English Literature

PAPER 1: SHAKESPEARE AND THE 19TH CENTURY NOVEL

Will test understanding of Macbeth and one nineteenth century novel.

PAPER 2: MODERN TEXTS AND POETRY

Will test understanding of An Inspector Calls and dramatic poetry past and present.

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ENGLISH (CONT...)

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ASSESSMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: A written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (worth 80 marks) and 50% of GCSE.
Reading: one literary fiction text.
Writing: descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2: A written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (worth 80 marks) and 50% of GCSE.
Reading: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text.
Writing: writing to present a viewpoint.

In addition there will be an oral assessment. The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:

- Giving a presentation in a formal context;
- Responding appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification;
- Using spoken Standard English.

The assessment will be separately endorsed.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

All assessments are closed book; any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel.
A written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (worth 64 marks) and 40% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
A written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (worth 96 marks) and 60% of GCSE.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None.