

Key Stage 3 English

Aims of the Course

At Key Stage 3, students will have access to a wide range of activities and improve on a wide range of skills. They will lay the technical groundwork in spelling, grammar and punctuation to allow them to write with accuracy and confidence. They will also experience a range of literature and be given the opportunity to write in a variety of styles.

Course Structure and Content

Year 7

In this year they will cover work on diary writing and personal non-fiction, they will read a novel (*Mrs Frisby and the Rats of Nimh, Skellig*), read and act out a playscript (*Streetchild*), learn about the conventions of writing a newspaper article, (which could be applied in several of the topics during the year), read and write pieces based on a pre- and post-1900 narrative poems (*The Highwayman, Bishop Hatto*) and some poetry from other cultures, learn and use the conventions of writing an informative leaflet.

Pupils will also work on increasing their understanding and accurate application of the conventions of grammar, punctuation and spelling. These will include the basic parts of speech, speech punctuation, the use of the apostrophe, spelling rules and basic terminology.

Pupils will be helped to increase confidence in speaking and listening by engaging in group discussion work, exploration of aspects of work in pairs, individual feedback to the rest of the class, and role playing.

Year 8

Reinforcement of the skills learnt in Year 7 is a key element in Year 8. The topics covered include pre-1914 prose (*Sherlock Holmes*), travel writing, pre-1914 poetry (*The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*), a modern prose text (*Holes, Carrie's War, The Ghost of Thomas Kempe*), a modern play (*Ratz*), media representations of Shakespeare, research into the theatre of Shakespeare's time, an introduction to Shakespeare using parts of *Twelfth Night* and writing literary non-fiction. Building on the oral work of year 7, pupils will give individual talks to the class during Year 8.

Year 9

Year 9 work includes consolidating the technical work covered in Yrs7&8. Literature covered may include novels such as *The Machine Gunners*, and war poetry from the 18th century to the first world war. Pupils will study a unit on Gothic literature (focusing particularly on *Frankenstein*) which will be a preparation for their GCSE courses, which they

will begin towards the end of Yr9. One of the five English lessons per fortnight will be a dedicated drama lesson.

Assessment

Assessment will centre on the use of the APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) criteria. Assessment will be by teacher marking of work and peer assessment, where pupils assess each other's work using precise criteria which are either given to them beforehand or discovered through class discussion, usually leading to a precise National Curriculum level. Extensive use is also made of self assessment using similar precise criteria. There is also more formal assessment at during the course of the year using tasks set in class and also by examination towards the end of the year.

Progression Routes

The groundwork put in place in KS3 will enable all pupils to gain good grades at GCSE level in both English and English Literature.

Required information for KS4 Courses

AIMS OF THE COURSE

The aims of both English 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

The course structure and content includes:

- ❖ building skills to produce writing for a variety of intended contexts and audiences.
- ❖ written responses to several works of literature including Shakespeare and pre-19th century literature.
- ❖ examples of the candidates' original writing.
- ❖ speaking and listening tasks in groups and individually.
- ❖ a study of spoken language.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

The course structure and content includes:

- ❖ the study of drama, poetry and prose texts.

- ❖ written responses to works of literature including Shakespeare and writers from the English Literary Heritage.

ASSESSMENT

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Three speaking and listening tasks:

- ❖ presenting.
- ❖ discussing and listening.
- ❖ role playing.

Three pieces of written coursework, completed as controlled assessments:

- ❖ extended reading – response to a text.
- ❖ creative writing.
- ❖ spoken language study.

One examination paper:

- ❖ two hours, which includes a response to reading and a written piece.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

One piece of written coursework, completed as a controlled assessment:

- ❖ make links between a Shakespeare play and another text from the English Literary Heritage.

Two examination papers:

- ❖ Paper One – one hour and thirty minutes, which includes a response to modern prose or drama, and a text from another culture.
- ❖ Paper Two – one hour and fifteen minutes, which includes a response to poetry from the anthology and an unseen poem.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

None.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

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

Required information for KS5 Courses

English Literature

GCE AS Level

GCE A2 Level

Examination Board: AQA
Specification Code: 2740
(1741 - AS Award)
(2741 - A2 Award)

Aims of the course

- To stimulate interest and enjoyment in a wide range of literature both past and present.
- To develop skills of argument and expression.
- To build skills of independent research and independent thinking.

Course structure and content

The course follows a modular structure with two modules at AS and two more at A2. Six tests in total are studied at each level, three in detail, and three as wider reading.

AS Unit 1 - Texts in Context: The Struggle for Modern Identity

Two hours written examination, focusing on set poetry text and wider reading. Open book.

AS Unit 2 - Creative Study: Coursework Folder 2,000/2,500 words

Follows on from Unit 1 area of study but focus of texts is on prose and drama. The folder must contain two pieces, one a creative interpretation and one an analytical study.

A2 Unit 3 - Reading for Meaning: Love Through the Ages

Two hours written examination, involving unprepared extracts and wider reading. Closed book.

A2 Unit 4 - Extended Essay and Shakespeare Study: Coursework Folder 3,000 words

Comparison of three texts, one at least a Shakespeare play.

Assessment

Assessment is by examination and optional coursework.

Entry requirements

To be accepted on the Advanced level course a student should have at least 5 GCSEs at grades A* - C. Students wishing to take "Advanced" Level Literature should have achieved at least GCSE grade C and preferably a B grade in both English and English Literature. It may

be possible for students to take the course if these requirements are not fulfilled following discussion with staff.

Progression routes

As a core arts subject English teaches the necessary skills for a wide range of degree courses. English complements many other 'A' level subjects and is essential for those wishing to pursue a career in the media, journalism, law and public service.