

Subject:

English Language

English Language Intent:

Our Exam Board is: AQA

The English department aims to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. The study of the AQA specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English, using grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts both in spoken and written English.

The Big Questions...

Year 10	Year 11
<p>Paper 1 Explorations in creative reading and writing Section A Reading Key focus: How do established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers? Q1 Can you identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas in a text? Can you select and synthesise evidence from texts to support a point of view? (AO1) Q2 Can you explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support your views? (AO2) Q3 Can you explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support your views? (AO2) Q4 Can you evaluate texts critically by stating why certain narrative and descriptive techniques have been used supporting this with appropriate textual references using relevant subject terminology? (AO4) Section B Writing Key focus: Can you demonstrate narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image using a range of features on a text, sentence and word level? Spoken English Key focus: Can you give a presentation in a formal context, then respond appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions yourself to seek clarification while using spoken Standard English?</p>	<p>Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives Section A Reading Key focus: How do writers present a particular perspective or viewpoint to influence a reader? Q1 Can you identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas in a text? Can you select and synthesise evidence from texts to support a point of view? (AO1) Q2 Can you identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas in a text? Can you select and synthesise evidence from texts to support a point of view? (AO1) Q3 Can you explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support your views? (AO2) Q4 Can you compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts? (AO3) Section B Writing Key focus: Can you produce a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which you give your own perspective on the theme that has been introduced in section A, using a range of features on a text, sentence and word level?</p>

What skills will I develop?

- In a world where communication skills are essential, the course will seek to develop your critical reading and comprehension and your ability to express yourself in written and spoken English in a clear and coherent way
- In reading, the key skills of inference, supporting a viewpoint with textual evidence, identifying bias and misuse of evidence, using the context of a text to aid interpretation while recognising the possibility of different responses to a text by different readers at different times will be covered
- In written and spoken English the key skills of producing clear and coherent texts for different purposes and audiences using language that is creative and varied will be covered

What great resources can I use?

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4> A comprehensive overview of the skills required for success in reading, writing and spoken English specific to the GCSE AQA syllabus.
- <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free> is excellent! Select AQA for English
- <https://getrevising.co.uk/> contains a range of useful materials created by teachers and students and graded and recommended by teachers using a 5 star rating.
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff> Mr Bruff: a huge range of videos and links to cover every aspect of GCSE English Language.
- <https://www.youtube.com/user/dominicsalles> Mr Salles: similar range and standard to Mr Bruff

How will I be assessed?

At key stage 4 work is assessed through GCSE type questions so that students can practise and refine the skills needed for each question. We also deliver weekly knowledge testing on Educake. Teacher feedback is given verbally, in books and on assessed work so that pupils can improve their understanding and refine their skills as they become more familiar with the different questions.
Examination: Spoken English will be teacher assessed at the end of year 10.
 The GCSE course is 100% exam based and will involve two papers as outlined above, taken at the end of Year 11. Both papers are 1 hour 45 mins long.

Three ways that parents/carers can help...

1. Encourage and maintain the reading habit in your child. Read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction both modern and pre 20th century: a little and often is the approach on a daily basis
2. Become familiar with <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse> and the pages that support the study of AQA GCSE English Language
3. Explore and revise all aspects of Victorian England, particularly Charles Dickens. Watch adaptations of the great novels of this era as well as documentaries focusing on Victorian life