

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (GCSE)

Examination Board

AQA

Syllabus 8700

During Years 10 and 11 all students will follow courses leading to the GCSE qualification in English language.

Overview of the course

This course will enable you to demonstrate skills in:

- reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately
- expressing yourself creatively and imaginatively
- understanding the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken English
- selecting and adapting speech and writing to different situations and audiences
- becoming a critical reader of a range of texts, including multi-modal texts
- using reading to gain access to knowledge and to develop your own skill as a writer
- connecting ideas, themes and issues, drawing on a range of texts.

Course content

Spoken Language

- You will be expected to undertake one extended task.
- This task will involve a presentation to either a group or a whole class.
- The presentation will be followed by a series of questions and answers.

Paper 1 - Written paper: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- The passage for the reading section on Paper 1 will be a 20th or 21st Century Literature fiction text. There will be four questions based on this text.
- The writing section will consist of an extended question based on narrative or descriptive writing.

Paper 2 - Written paper: Writers' viewpoints and Perspectives

- The reading texts for Paper 2 will include one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text E.g. autobiography, biography, letters, memoir and travel/adventure writing. There will be four questions based on this text.
- The writing section will be an extended piece where you will be asked to present a viewpoint.

How you will be assessed

| Unit | Assessment and duration | Maximum Marks | Percentage of overall result |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Unit 1 : Spoken Language | Presentation | Distinction Credit Pass | 0% |
| Paper 1 Written paper | Exam - 1 Hour 45 minutes | 80 | 50% |
| Paper 2 Written paper | Exam – 1 Hour 45 minutes | 80 | 50% |

Your final examinations will assess your ability to read and interpret text(s) and how well you can write for different audiences. Students sit the examinations in the summer of Year 11. Results will be graded on a nine point scale: 1 to 9 – where 9 is the best grade.

Post 16 courses available

You can go on to study English Literature at A Level, currently available in The Sandon Sixth Form.