



## English: AQA

### **OVERVIEW**

Key stage 4 study of English Language and Literature focuses on the skills/concepts studied in key stage 3. Pupils explore a variety of 19<sup>th</sup> century, 20<sup>th</sup> century, 21<sup>st</sup> century texts, Shakespeare and poetry. The courses are enriched with detailed analysis, inference and deep understanding of varied texts.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

#### **English Literature**

- Macbeth
- An Inspector Calls
- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde
- Power and Conflict Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

#### **English Language**

##### Explorations in creative reading and writing

The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by:

- in section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers
- in section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

The paper will assess in this sequence, AO1, AO2 and AO4 for reading, and AO5 and AO6 for writing. Section A will be allocated 40 marks, and Section B will be allocated 40 marks to give an equal weighting to the reading and writing tasks.

##### Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by:

- in section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader
- in section B, producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A.

The paper will assess in this sequence, AO1, AO2 and AO3 for reading, and AO5 and AO6 for writing. Section A will be allocated 40 marks, and section B will be allocated 40 marks to give an equal weighting to the reading and writing tasks.

### Non-Exam assessment Speaking and Listening

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 and will cover AO7, AO8 and AO9 for spoken language.

## **ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES**

### **Literature**

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation

### **Language**

- AO1: identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- AO2: Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views
- AO3: Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts
- AO4: Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references
- AO5: Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts
- AO6: Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation. (This requirement must constitute 20% of the marks for each specification as a whole.)
- AO7: Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting
- AO8: Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback on presentations
- AO9: Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations

## ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

### Literature

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

#### What's assessed

- Shakespeare's *Macbeth*
- *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

#### How it's assessed

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

#### Questions

**Section A Shakespeare's *Macbeth*:** students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

**Section B *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*:** students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

### Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry

#### What's assessed

- Modern prose or drama texts
- The poetry anthology
- Unseen poetry

#### How it's assessed

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

#### Questions

**Section A *An Inspector Calls*:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the drama text.

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the power and conflict cluster.

**Section C Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

# Language

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

## **Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing**

### **What's assessed**

#### **Section A: Reading**

one literature fiction text

#### **Section B: Writing**

descriptive or narrative writing

### **Assessed**

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### **Questions**

#### **Reading (40 marks) (25%)**– one single text

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

#### **Writing (40 marks) (25%)**

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

## **Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives**

### **What's assessed**

#### **Section A: Reading**

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

#### **Section B: Writing**

- writing to present a viewpoint

### **Assessed**

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Questions

### Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

- 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)
- 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)
- 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

### Writing (40 marks) (25%)

- 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

### Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language

#### What's assessed

(AO7–AO9)

- presenting
- responding to questions and feedback
- use of Standard English

#### Assessed

- teacher set throughout course
- marked by teacher
- separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)

## GROUPINGS

Sets

## HOMEWORK INFORMATION

Homework will be set by the class teacher per week. It should take between 15-45 minutes. Students will be given past GCSE papers on previous and current texts studied.

## EXTENDED STUDY INFORMATION

- Accessing and attempting AQA past papers
- Researching the contextual factors surrounding authors and the time periods the text was written in
- Watching documentaries about the key text of study/author
- Look at exemplar answers
- Research critical and literary theory about core texts studied, you can access local libraries, Google Scholar

## ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A key feature of this course is the opportunity for students to see live theatre and trips to local venues or, to London, will be arranged. Students who wish to pursue a career in acting, or who are simply keen to expand their experience, can get involved in extra-curricular activities ranging from the main school production to workshops which will prepare them for auditions.

## **EQUIPMENT NEEDED**

Standard stationery

Highlighters

## **HOW CAN PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN?**

Parents can support their children by consistently helping them with retrieval practice of key scenes, writing/memorising key scenes and events, revising key quotations for each character and themes present in the book of study.

Quick fire quotation hunts are also a good way of embedding key information in children's long-term memory.

Visiting places such as Stratford Upon Avon and museums would help your child appreciate and delve into literary consumption.

## **TEXTBOOKS OR REVISION GUIDES**

**These should be the ones that we use in school**

## **CONTACTS / ANY FURTHER INFORMATION**

**Curriculum Leader:** Mrs Aneesa Perryman Hussain