

# English Language

*'The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page' - Saint Augustine*



The English Language course develops your reading and writing skills. The final exams will test:

- Your ability to retrieve information from a range of different texts.
- Your ability to comment on the overall structure of a text
- Your ability to analyse a writer's use of language.
- Your ability to compare the content of two different texts.
- The overall structure of your writing: how well you can plan and paragraph.
- Your ability to use different types of sentences.
- The breadth of your vocabulary
- Your accuracy with spelling and grammar.

There are two papers which ask you to look at different types of text.

**Paper 1** asks you to read and comment on an extract of fiction and write a piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

**Paper 2** asks you to read and comment on an extract from non-fiction text and write to present your viewpoint on a topic.

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
<b>Non-exam assessment: spoken language endorsement</b> You will be asked to present a talk on a topic of your choice followed by answering questions linked to your topic.  This endorsement is worth 0% of the GCSE but is reported separately on your results certificate.  Your endorsement is marked on Fail/ Pass/ Merit/ Distinction criteria.  This unit is marked internally and externally moderated by the exam board.		<b>Exam Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing: written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</b> <b>50% of GCSE</b> <b>Section A: Reading</b> one literature fiction text <b>Section B: Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• descriptive or narrative writing</li> </ul> <b>Exam Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives: written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</b> <b>50% of GCSE</b> <b>Section A: Reading</b> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text <b>Section B: Writing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• writing to present a viewpoint</li> </ul>	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
English Language	AQA	8700	www.aqa.org.uk
GCSE English Language equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It also provides vital skills for life and work by developing students' ability to understand the written word with clarity and communicate their own views with precision. These skills are relevant in all career paths and essential in many.			
Director of Faculty: Mr Brodie			

# English Literature

*'Once you have read a book you care about, some part of it is always with you.'* - Louis L'Amour



The English Literature course will test the following skills:

- Comprehension skills: how well can you infer information about plot, character, events and settings?
- Critical Reading: how well do you consider different ways of interpreting a text? Does the historical context of a text help you come to your own informed opinion?
- Analytical skills: how well can you analyse how writers use language, form and structure.
- Comparison skills: how well do you compare and contrast texts that you have studied.

Over the course of year 10 and 11, you will study the following texts in full:

- Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley or Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
- Macbeth by William Shakespeare
- Poetry 'Power & Conflict' Anthology by Various Poets

## External Assessment

**Exam Paper 1:** Shakespeare and 19th Century novel (A Christmas Carol)

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of Lit GCSE

**Section A: Shakespeare:** 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: The 19th-century novel:** 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.

**Exam Paper 2:** Modern Text (An Inspector Calls or Pigeon English) and Poetry - written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes - 60% of Lit GCSE

**Section A: Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

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

**Section C: Unseen poetry:** Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question

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English Literature	AQA	8702	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>

GCSE English Literature equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It also provides vital skills for life by developing students' ability to understand the world around them and communicate their views with precision. These skills are relevant in all career paths and essential in many. Studying literature gives students the opportunity to engage with a very broad range of ideas and perspectives on issues as diverse as personal relationships, war, ambition, politics, friendship and many others. Studying literature allows students to develop skills of understanding and empathy. It brings the opportunity for students to expand their thinking by considering the situations and experiences of people beyond the current scope of their own lives.

Director of Faculty: Mr Brodie

# Drama

*'Giving voice to characters that have no voice - that's the great worth of what we do.'* - Meryl Streep



## Why choose drama?

Choose drama if you want to develop:

- Focus
- Confidence
- Memory skills
- Concentration
- Self-esteem
- Conversation
- Social skills
- Presentation skills
- Negotiation skills
- Leadership skills
- Creativity
- Imagination
- Literacy
- Written analytical skills

## Is this subject for me?

- Do you enjoy expressing yourself in an active and practical way?
- Do you like working in a group?
- Are you prepared to contribute your ideas and take on board those of others?
- Do you like exploring serious issues by putting yourself in other people's shoes?
- Are you able to focus and sustain your concentration?
- Do you want to create and perform your own drama work?
- Are you able to approach serious emotional drama with maturity?
- Do you want to study plays written by other people?
- Are you prepared to sit a written examination at the end of Year 11?
- Do you prefer being assessed practically?

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
<b>Devising drama - 40% of the GCSE</b> Assesses: The process of creating devised drama Your performance of devised drama (as either a performer or designer) Your ability to analyse and evaluate your own work You will produce a devising log (worth 60 marks) and a practical performance (worth 20 marks). This component is marked internally and externally moderated.		<b>Written Exam - 40% of the GCSE</b> Assesses: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre Your study of one set play Your ability to analyse and evaluate the work of live theatre makers  <b>Practical performance - 20% of the GCSE</b> Performance of two extracts from one play Marked by an external examiner who visits the Academy	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Drama	AQA	8261	<a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk">www.aqa.org.uk</a>

Drama builds skills for life, including your confidence and communication skills. These skills are vital in all walks of life and all jobs you may go on to do. In 2013, the Russell Group of universities asked FTSE 250 companies what the two most important qualities were that they looked for in an employee. The two most common answers were teamwork and communication - both skills which you will build throughout GCSE Drama. You could also go on to study drama further at Level 3 and beyond, and ultimately take up a job in the creative and theatre sectors - not just as an actor but also in design, production, marketing, front of house, writing... with a GCSE in Drama, the possibilities are virtually limitless!

Director of Faculty: Mr Brodie



# Media Studies

*'Film recognises neither time nor space, only the limits of man's imagination.'* - Nicholas Ray



We are all immersed in the media. We consume and interact with the media everyday of our lives when we use the internet, watch films, play video games, listen to music, use social media, see adverts, watch TV or streaming services, read magazines or listen to the radio. We take the media for granted, but do we really know what it is, what it does or how it affects us?

Studying the media will give you knowledge and understanding of this hugely important and powerful part of your life.

**The course can be broken down into 3 areas of study:**

## Media Texts

The things produced by media organisations:

Websites, social media platforms, music videos, TV programmes, films, video games, newspapers, magazines etc.

## Media Audiences

The people who consume media products - *us* - watching, reading, hearing, buying, playing, posting etc.

## Media Organisations

The people who produce and control most media content: Who they are?  
what do they do? who are they run by? what is their function?

Internal Assessment		External Assessment	
<b>Component 3:</b> Creating Media Products Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification (Coursework - producing your own media product)		<b>Component 1:</b> Exploring the Media Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 40% of qualification  <b>Component 2:</b> Understanding Media Forms and Products Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes - 30% of qualification.	
Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
Media Studies	Eduqas		eduqas.co.uk

GCSE Media Studies equips students for further study at sixth form and university. It is also excellent preparation for many career paths including those in ICT, journalism, marketing, advertising, gaming, TV and Radio and all the creative arts.

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