

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Students following this course are those in English sets 1, A, 2 and B .

The exam board the students are following is the WJEC board: www.wjec.co.uk There is a parent and student page on the website. Please note that any exams papers from 2011 or earlier follow an old specification and WILL NOT be the same as the exams students will be completing from 2012 onwards, but, they will develop students' English skills if you wish to use them as general English practice.

Other resources can be found at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english/>

The GCSE English Language course is comprised from 60% controlled assessment and 40% exam.

The GCSE English Literature course is comprised from 25% controlled assessment and 75% exam.

Controlled Assessments:

Controlled Assessments are prepared for and carried out during English lesson time, in exam conditions. They are an important aspect of the course and it is **imperative** that every assessment meets the students' target grade otherwise they will be asked to complete another one until the target grade is met.

GCSE English Language

Literary texts	a response to a novel	15%
Writing (1)	descriptive writing	7.5%
Writing (2)	narrative writing	7.5%
Studying Spoken language	transcript based	10%
Speaking and listening	adapting and communicating language - presentation	} total of 20%
Speaking and listening	interacting and responding - group/paired activity	
Speaking and listening	creating and sustaining roles - drama focused activity	

GCSE English Literature

Shakespeare and poetry	a linked piece exploring a theme between Shakespeare and poetry	25%
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Students behind on their controlled assessments, or needing to improve current controlled assessments, will be **expected** to attend English sessions after school on Thursdays.

Exams:

GCSE English Language

Exams will be sat in January with re-sit opportunities in May.

Unit 1	responding to non-fiction texts	1 hour	20%
Unit 2	writing for non-fiction purposes	1 hour	20%

GCSE English Literature

Unit 1 exam for Literature will be sat in January, Unit 2 exam for Literature will be sat in May.

Unit 1	Response to a novel: unseen poetry comparison	2 hours	35%
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Unit 2 Response to a drama text: response to a prose text 2 hours 40%

* Please note that a total of 3 texts will be studied for the 2 English Literature exams. These are closed book exams (they are not allowed a copy of them in the exam) That means it is very important that students have copies of these books at home so that they can be read more than once and so the students can make personalised notes and annotations in the books to help them revise.

Year 10

Students will spend Year 10 working on and completing their controlled assessments.

Year 11

In Year 11, students will have time to improve controlled assessments, if required. They will also prepare for an English Language GCSE mock exam in October. At this point classes will be re-structured according to exam performance. Students will then spend lessons preparing for their GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature exams in January.

Once results are published in March, students may need further exam preparation for re-sit exams in May when they will have their final opportunity to achieve their target grade. They will also be preparing for their Unit 2 exam in GCSE English Literature.

Key dates:

Tuesday 10 th January 2012	Unit 1 and Unit 2	GCSE English Language exams	(Y11 only)
Friday 13 th January 2012	Unit 1	GCSE English Literature exam	(Y11 only)
Tuesday 22 nd May 2012	Unit 1	GCSE English Literature exam	(Y11 and possibly Y10*)
Thursday 24 th May 2012	Unit 2	GCSE English Literature exam	(Y11 only and possibly Y10*)
Tuesday 29 th May 2012	Unit 1 and Unit 2	GCSE English exam	(re-sit opportunity Y11)

Currently, Year 10 exams will be in the January and May of 2013, *unless parents are informed otherwise.