

# English Language GCSE

## Overview

English is a lesson for life, and we remind our students of its importance in the world beyond school. It is the subject which creates the foundation for vital communication skills. We value both personal and academic responses from our students, supporting them in becoming increasingly fluent in spoken and written communication. All KS4 students have the opportunity to discuss, analyse, listen to and challenge perceptions. We encourage students to question received ideas and detect bias. Above all, we want KS4 English to offer stretch and challenge centred on intellectual curiosity and enjoyment.

The qualification would naturally lead to A Level English Language or Literature, but in essence, English Language GCSE is a gateway qualification which is required to access further and higher education and employment.

## Topics

Students will develop the following skills:

- The ability to read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- Read critically and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing!
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language

Students will study the following areas of English Language:

- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Literature fiction and descriptive or narrative writing)
- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- Reading non-fiction texts and literary non-fiction texts
- Writing to present a viewpoint

## Course Structure

There is no tiered entry, so all students sit the same examinations regardless of their ability. There are two exam papers:

- Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks - 50% of final GCSE grade
- Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minutes - 80 marks - 50% of final GCSE grade
- Non-examination component - Spoken Language (Separate endorsement 0% weighting of GCSE)

## Additional Information & Who to Contact

- For more information please follow the link to the course specification on the exam board website <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700/specification-at-a-glance>
- If you require any further information or have any questions, then please contact Ms. Tunnickliff (Head of English) via email – [catherina.tunnickliff@consilium-at.com](mailto:catherina.tunnickliff@consilium-at.com)

[Click here to return to the list of subjects](#)