

## CURRICULUM INTENT

**The English department seeks to inspire passionate readers and proficient writers through a culture rooted in cultural exploration, collaborative learning and evaluative and creative thinking.**

*“Literature is where I go to explore the highest and lowest places in human society and in the human spirit, where I hope to find not absolute truth but the truth of the tale, of the imagination and of the heart.”*  
~Salman Rushdie

The KS4 curriculum aims to enrich students’ lives through an introduction to the very best that has been thought and said in classic and contemporary fiction and non-fiction.

### English Language

Students will draw upon a range of literary fiction and extended non-fiction text, as reading stimulus, and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes. They learn to read fluently and write effectively, demonstrating a confident control of Standard English. The ability to write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative and analytical language, and subject terminology, are all developed throughout the course. GCSE English Language is taught alongside GCSE English Literature, leading to two GCSE qualifications.

The AQA GCSE English Language course offers all students the opportunity of demonstrating their skills, and achieving their potential on the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. There are no tiers for these examinations, so students of all abilities sit the same examination papers.

There is also a Speaking and Listening element to GCSE English Language, which is teacher-assessed and attracts a Pass / Merit / Distinction. It is reported separately on the list of results as a *Spoken Language Endorsement*.




### English Literature

Through their study of English literature at GCSE, students develop their knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Studying GCSE English Literature encourages students to read widely for pleasure, and as a preparation for studying literature at a higher level.

The AQA GCSE English Literature course offers all students the opportunity of demonstrating their skills, and achieving their potential on the terminal examinations at the end of Year 11. There are no tiers for these examinations, so students of all abilities sit the same examination papers.

The content of the course includes works by the following writers from the pre-20th literary canon: William Shakespeare; Alfred Lord Tennyson; William Blake; William Wordsworth; R. L. Stevenson; Robert Browning and Christina Rossetti. It also encompasses works by significant writers from the 20th century and beyond: J.B. Priestley; Simon Armitage; Daljit Nagra and Imtiaz Dhakar.

## THE AVANTI WAY

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE	CHARACTER FORMATION	SPIRITUAL INSIGHT
		
<p>The English Department at Avanti Fields strive to uphold ‘educational excellence’ by enhancing the intellectual and cultural lives of our students. The department works to develop and sustain an ambitious level</p>	<p>In English, the ‘character formation’ aspect of the Avanti Way is particularly pertinent due to the nature of the topics, themes and texts that we cover. Across a number of various contexts and literature, we are - by</p>	<p>English presents spiritual or religious undertones in many of our studies, especially within those texts which explicitly emphasise or allude to religion. A number of our over-arching subject areas have been adapted to</p>



<p>of critical and creative thinking about literature and the world. Students are set to develop their own language and communication proficiencies – including reading, writing, speaking and listening skills - which are intended to serve them in all fields. A particular emphasis is placed on cultivating resilient readers and dedicated writers. The Programme of Study is challenging and ambitious and has been carefully created to align with and work up to the high expectations of GCSE English whilst allowing for the development of skills, competencies and qualities beyond academia.</p>	<p>virtue of our subject - engineering discussions and creating curiosity around textual characters: their choices, qualities, relationships and values. Broader themes such as friendship, morality, love, good vs. bad, identity, culture and family span numerous texts covered in the English curriculum, as well as more text-specific themes - all of which lend themselves to discussions around Character Formation. There is a concerted effort to link these discussions to personal experience and development, tapping into students' own worldviews, journeys and characters. Through this literary and inner exploration, the department hopes to pull importance towards virtues such as kindness, compassion and positivity whilst rendering students confident in who they are and who they aspire to become.</p>	<p>reflect 'spiritual insight' by incorporating texts, themes and discussions centred around notions of spirituality and God; these include Cultural Heritage extracts, Shakespeare's plays, 19th Century poetry, romantic poetry, war poetry, pre-19th century fiction, travel writing, the modern novel and persuasive rhetoric. Qualities such as sacrifice and forgiveness are particularly prevalent in these literary works. To this end, the English Department has also created a topic called 'Cultural Heritage: Ancient Heroes' which specifically studies stories and characters derived from ancient Hindu tradition, Greek mythology and Biblical tradition; access to these will allow for the cultivation of culturally diverse spiritual knowledge and – through various forms of symbolism – represent the need for spiritual values such as simplicity, renunciation and purification.</p>
--	--	---

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

The GCSE English course encourages the development of independent critical thinking and a deeper understanding of non-fiction and literary texts, through the reading and study of a wide variety of challenging Literature.

**GCSE English: Year 10 and 11**

Students start their GCSE work in the Summer term of year 9 studying a C19<sup>th</sup> novel for understanding of historical context, character and plot.

The English GCSE course consists of two separate GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. GCSE students will have 5 lessons per week and will be provided with opportunities to develop their inference skills, creative and discursive writing skills, and analytical and evaluative thinking. There will be four exams in total and students will be awarded two separate GCSE exams.

**KEY SKILLS DEVELOPED THROUGHOUT THE COURSE**

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- Listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.

The GCSE Language course (AQA GCSE English Language 8700) has two 1 hour and 45 minutes exam papers and examines both Reading and Writing. The Reading sections assesses students on their comprehension of a writer's language and structural methods and techniques across both literary and non-fiction texts together with the evaluative and critical analysis.

The Writing sections assesses students on both their creative and narrative writing in paper 1 and their discursive writing in paper 2.

The Spoken Language element will consist of a formal speech and presentation to the class, the final award of either a pass, merit or distinction will appear on their GCSE certificate. Student will have two opportunities to do this presentation- one in year 10 and one in year 11 – their best mark will be entered into AQA.

The GCSE Literature (AQA GCSE English literature 8702) course has two papers and assesses students on their ability to analyse the writer’s craft, use of language and structure from a variety of different texts across literary time. Texts studied start at Shakespeare through to Victorian novels and poetry, right up to modern day.

**Texts and areas of study**

English Literature 8702 AQA reference 601/4447/6					English Language 8700 AQA reference 601/4292/3		Spoken Language
Shakespeare	19 <sup>th</sup> century novel	20 <sup>th</sup> Century play/novel	Poetry Anthology	Unseen	Reading	Writing	Formal presentation
One of:  Macbeth	One of:  Sign of the Four A Christmas Carol Jekyll & Hyde	One of:  An Inspector Calls Animal Farm	Power and Conflict anthology – 15 poems from literary heritage 19th/20th/21st century	Independent study and analysis of unseen/untaught poetry	Literary fiction and non-fiction texts. Comparing texts from the 19th/20th/21st century.	Writing to Describe. Writing to Narrate. Writing to Argue. Writing to Explain	Students plan and prepare a formal spoken presentation to their class and teacher.

**ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK**

Students are assessed regularly in English through a combination of formative and summative assessment. Students will receive valuable and informative verbal and written feedback after each assessment following the whole school Strengths, Improvements and Actions (SIA) policy. After feedback students will be given Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time (DIRT) during lessons to allow students to reflect and apply the feedback they have received to improve their work and make further progress in their knowledge, skills and understanding of English Language and Literature.

**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT:** For each designated question on each paper, students will be guided through practice questions and given short formative assessments in lessons in order to identify areas to improve on for their next attempt at the question.

**SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT:** There are two summative assessments (mocks) per year at KS4. These are cumulative in nature and the purpose is to confirm the track point of the student to promote longer term recall by testing earlier knowledge and to meet the demands of the linear course.

**In English Language GCSE** two terminal examinations are taken at the end of the two-year course (Year 11).

**Paper 1: GCSE English Language: *Creative Reading and Writing*** is 1 hour 45 minutes long and is worth 50% of the overall GCSE. The examination paper consists of two sections: Section A tests reading and analytical skills on an unseen fiction text, while Section B is an extended writing task, assessing fluency, use of Standard English, and accuracy of writing.

**Paper 2: GCSE English Language. *Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives*** is 1 hour and 45 minutes long, and is worth 50%

of the overall GCSE qualification. The examination paper consists of two sections: Section A tests reading and analytical skills on two unseen pieces of literary non-fiction, while Section B is an extended writing task, assessing fluency, use of Standard English, and accuracy of writing.

**GCSE English Literature** two terminal examinations are taken at the end of the two-year course (Year 11).

**Paper 1: *Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel*** – 1 hour 45 minutes, and worth 40% of the overall GCSE.

**Section A Shakespeare:** students will answer one question on the play they have studied (*Macbeth*). 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 the novel they have studied (*A Christmas Carol*). 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*** – 2 hours and 15 minutes, and worth 60% of the overall GCSE.

**Section A Modern texts:** students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the text they have studied (*An Inspector Calls*).

**Section B Poetry:** students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the 15 poems in the *Power and Conflict* anthology.

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

### EXAM BOARD AND AQA USEFUL WEBSITES

**EXAM BOARD:** AQA

**SPECIFICATION:** English Language 8700

**SPECIFICATION:** English Literature 8702

The AQA/OCR website has past papers, mark schemes and the specification all free to download.  
English Language

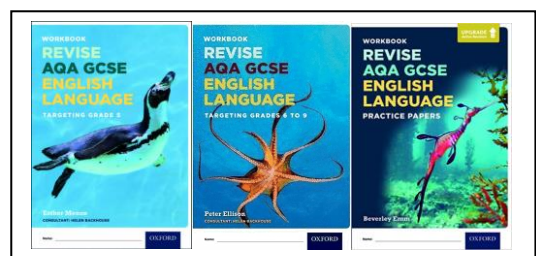
<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

English Literature

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

### SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE

1. Use the English revision guides and workbook: **OXFORD REVISE: AQA GCSE WORKBOOKS**. These workbooks provides a targeted approach with activities to practise the key reading skills of language and structural analysis; evaluation and comparison.
2. Use flashcards with free app for phone. Read it, snap it on your phone, revise it...helps you retain key facts. Clear information with at-a-glance chronology of the text. A tight focus on key events, characters, themes, context, language and structure. Lots of quiz cards to help you test and demonstrate your knowledge.
3. Log on to Google classroom to access the English student area packed full of resources used in classroom and a variety of revision resources worksheets and PPTs. Use your knowledge organisers to help revision.



4. Use Seneca learning <https://senecalearning.com/en-GB/> to watch videos, complete the quizzes and the in-built questions and answers to self assess.
5. Visit Oak Academy <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-4/subjects/english> to aid and support your initial understanding and learning and also to revisit and revise GCSE texts.

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR / SUPER-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES**

Throughout the year student will have the opportunity to engage in various English workshops, trips and drama productions when available and relevant to the texts studied. Parents and students will be informed of all opportunities as and when they are organised.