

English Language and Literature

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the different elements of the English qualification?

In English, at GCSE level, students will study two separate qualifications: Language and Literature. These two courses offer students the opportunity to experience and study texts from a broad range of contexts, allowing them to be challenged and inspired by the range of reading material on offer. The two qualifications are assessed by exams only, with two papers being sat for each subject (Language and Literature). There is an additional spoken language assessment, which sits alongside the English Language qualification and enables students to develop their confidence in speaking in a 'public' forum. The assessment process for all elements of the English curriculum are explained in more detail below.

What will I study?

In English Language, students will be taught to read and respond to unseen texts from a range of different time periods (19th, 20th and 21st Century). They will study both fiction and non-fiction texts, learning how to identify viewpoints, meanings and effects of structure and language of texts, among other key skills. As well as studying texts written by others, students will practise and refine their own writing skills, in relation to both fiction and non-fiction writing.

In Literature, there are five key elements to the exam. Again, students will study texts from a range of time periods, from Elizabethan literature to texts written in the 20th Century. We offer a range of texts for study at GCSE level, so not all classes will study the same texts. The texts on offer for study include:

Literature Paper 1	Literature Paper 2
Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i>	J. B. Priestley's <i>An Inspector Calls</i>
Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	William Golding's <i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Charles Dickens' <i>A Christmas Carol</i>	An anthology of poems on the theme of Power and Conflict by a variety of different poets
Robert Louis Stevenson's <i>Jekyll and Hyde</i>	

How will I be assessed?

The four exams that students will sit for the two English qualifications are outlined below, alongside a brief overview of the Spoken Language Endorsement they will be assessed for.

English Language Paper 1	English Language Paper 2
Section A: Reading One unseen fiction text Four questions of increasing challenge, designed to assess students' ability to respond to the way that a writer uses language and structure to generate a specific response from a reader. 40 marks total	Section A: Reading Two unseen non-fiction texts Four questions of increasing challenge, designed to assess students' ability to understand and compare the viewpoints and perspectives of different writers. 40 marks total
Section B: Writing	Section B: Writing

One extended fiction writing task, where students are asked either to describe a place or person or write a brief narrative account of an event. 40 marks total	One extended non-fiction writing task, such as a speech or newspaper article, where students are asked to write from their own perspective on a given issue. 40 marks total
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Spoken Language Endorsement: students prepare a brief speech on any topic of their choice to be delivered in front of a small audience. This sits alongside the Language qualification and is assessed by teachers within the course of the academic year.

English Literature Paper 1	English Literature Paper 2
Section A: Shakespeare One essay style question about either a theme or character from one of the two Shakespeare plays studied. 30 marks and an additional 4 for SPaG	Section A: the Modern Text One essay style question about either a theme or character from one of the two modern texts studied. 30 marks and an additional 4 for SPaG
Section B: The 19th Century novel One essay style question about either a theme or character from one of the two 19 th Century novels studied. 30 marks	Section B: Power and Conflict Poetry One essay style question comparing two of the studied poems from the Power and Conflict anthology collection. 30 marks
	Section C: Unseen Poetry One essay style question about a poem that students have never studied before. One short answer question, comparing two poems that students will never have studied before. 24 marks for the essay and 8 marks for the comparison

What skills will I consolidate?

There are a number of skills that students will have developed throughout their studies at KS3, that will also be assessed at GCSE. For reading sections of the exams in both Language and Literature these include being able to read and understand information contained within a text, understanding how writers use language and structure in their writing to have an impact on the reader and being able to develop a coherent argument in response to a text. In the writing sections of the exam, as well as in the first question of each Literature paper, students will be expected to demonstrate consistent control of their spelling, punctuation and grammar. Their writing for English Language will also be assessed for the content, including how well it matches the task set, and how well they can structure their writing for clarity and impact.

What resources will I need?

There are no resources that are needed for the English Language papers, although there will be revision guides sold by the English Department to support students with their independent study – these are usually made available to students towards the end of Year 10 or beginning of Year 11.

For Literature, there are a number of texts that students can purchase, which will enhance the study of the set texts. This includes copies of the texts themselves, apart from the Power and Conflict

Anthology, which is provided by the exam board. There are also recommended revision guides, which, like the Language ones, will be available to purchase from school.

Who can I speak to to find out more?

Please contact Mrs Hannah Gelder at hgelder@cambournevc.org

Where can I find out more about this qualification?

The qualifications students study at Cambourne are all with the exam board AQA.

For more information about English Language, please search here:

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

For more information about English Literature, please search here:

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

Alternatively, there is information about these qualifications that can be found in the KS4 Curriculum Handbook here: <https://www.cambournevc.org/parent-carer-and-student-information/year-groups/year-10>

Where can I find examples of the kind of questions I might be asked?

Assessment resources can be found at the two links from the exam board provided above.