

GCSE English Information for Parents 2022

A general introduction to GCSE English

English Language

English is a vital form of communication for students to go on and succeed in their lives and chosen careers. Many jobs now request literacy and numeracy tests, as well as an emphasis in oral skills (speaking, listening and manners). Students will need to demonstrate a range of excellent communication skills to succeed in their working lives and when forming friendships and relationships.

At Westborough High School, the study of English language allows students to investigate the purpose and intention of language. Over the two years, students follow a course of study which prepares them to sit two examinations in English language. In both papers students are required to read, understand and analyse texts before applying these skills to their own writing. Please find the exam details below:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (50% of the Language GCSE)

- Section A: Analysis of one literature, fictional text through a series of four questions
- Section B: An extended fictional writing piece based on a provided stimulus

Paper 2: Writer's viewpoints and perspectives (50 % of the Language GCSE)

- Section A: Analysis and comparison of two non-fiction texts, through a series of four questions
- Section B: An extended non-fiction writing piece based on presenting a viewpoint

To complete their English Language GCSE, all pupils must undertake the compulsory spoken language endorsement. This involves delivering a short presentation to their class and is assessed separately to their overall GCSE grading. *This component will be automatically awarded based on classroom evidence.*

English Literature

The study of English literature builds upon their language studies to explore literary texts over time. Pupils study their set texts in chronological order. This allows them to map historical change and to compare portrayals across different forms, as well as developing their interpretative and analytical skills. Please see below for the selected set texts.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40% of the Literature GCSE)

- Section A: Romeo and Juliet
- Section B: A Christmas Carol

Paper 2: Modern Prose and Poetry (60% of the Literature GCSE)

- ~~Section A: An Inspector Calls~~ *Removed from summer 2022 exams*
- Section B: The Poetry Anthology: Power and Conflict
- Section C: Unseen Poetry

Opportunities to get help from the English Department

- 4 hours of lessons + 45 min period 6 after school on Tuesday
- On request and subject to available time, teachers will help at before school and at lunchtimes too.
- Feedback & support through Email and MS Teams. Teachers also share material on MS Teams
- Please email your child's English teacher any time through the faculty leader, below

Mrs S Hepton shepton@w-h-s.org.uk Interim Team Leader of English (Lead Teacher)

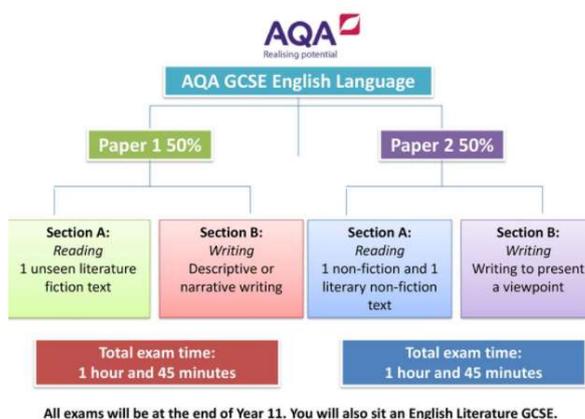
How students will be assessed

The exam board for English is AQA



Information about the exams including past papers and enlarged papers can be found in

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>



Examination dates:

The dates for the mock exams are...

Paper 1	Monday 28th February	Morning	1h 45m
Paper 2	Tuesday 1st March	Afternoon	1h 45m
Literature 1	Thursday 3rd March	Morning	1h 45m
Literature 2	Friday 4 th March	Morning	1h 45m

The papers will be marked and analysed after they are completed. There will be **parents evening Wednesday 30th March** when you can talk to subject teachers about how they have done, and about how they can improve further.

Three months later, the final exam dates are...

Paper 1 Language	Wednesday 18 th May
Paper 2 Language	Friday 10 th June
Paper 1 Literature	Wednesday 25 th May
Paper 2 Literature	Wednesday 8 th June



How can parents help plan for success in the GCSE exams?

- Encourage weekly revision time – ideally 2-3 hours on weekends
- Students should complete one extended essay or question response per week, ideally at weekends
- Copies of the set Literature texts should be read and annotated where possible
- Timelines of the set texts are an important revision task
- Students should revise key quotes for characters, using flashcards and post-it notes
- Purchase copies of the GCSE workbooks and revision guides from school (available after half term)
- Visit BBC Bitesize
- Watch YouTube revision videos such as 'Mr Bruff' to gain insights into each question
- Complete past papers found in GCSE Language revision guides or from your teacher