



ENGLISH AT GCSE

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

All students continue to study English at Key Stage 4. In fact, you will take two GCSEs in it: English Language and English Literature. At Wath, we follow the AQA specifications.

You will explore a range of different English texts from as long ago as William Shakespeare right up to the present day; these include novels like *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, plays like *An Inspector Calls*, poetry and various non-fiction pieces. You will also improve your writing, focusing on writing creatively and to give your views. Furthermore, you will develop your spoken language skills through discussions and by giving presentations.

Sounds challenging? It is – but you will have lots of support and should find the course very enjoyable.

For more information, talk to any English teacher. You can also visit the English section of the school's website or the exam board's English website at aqa.org.uk/english.

EXAMS AND ASSESSMENT

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Paper 1

1½ hours; 50% of GCSE

- Analysis of an unseen fiction text
- Descriptive or narrative writing

Paper 2

1½ hours; 50% of GCSE

- Analysis of unseen non-fiction texts
- Writing to present a viewpoint

Non-Exam Assessment

Separately graded

- Spoken language presentation followed by questions

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

Paper 1

1½ hours; 40% of GCSE

- Shakespeare play
- Nineteenth-century novel

Paper 2

2¼ hours; 60% of GCSE

- Modern prose/drama
- Poetry from 1789–present
- Unseen poetry

Q&A

- Q Why is English so important?
- A Because English is the foundation for all other subjects. Being good at English means that you are able to analyse thoroughly and communicate your ideas through both writing and speech. Good grades in English are a requirement for virtually all further education courses and employment.
- Q What is the difference between English Language and English Literature?
- A English Language is focused on analysing how writers use language to communicate and how to transfer these ideas to your own writing and speaking. In English Literature, you consider the ways novels, plays and poetry tell us about the world around us.
- Q Are English Language and English Literature taught together?
- A Yes, they are studied in the same lessons.
- Q Are the older pieces of writing we read really hard?
- A It's nothing to worry about. While some of the older texts are challenging, you have plenty of guidance and should manage well.
- Q How is English assessed?
- A Both GCSEs are assessed by exams at the end of Year 11 (except the spoken language presentation – see below).
- Q Are the exams tiered?
- A No. Everyone takes the same exams.
- Q Are my grades for English Language and English Literature linked?
- A No. You will get a completely separate 9–1 grade for each GCSE. The skills, however, are similar across both GCSEs.
- Q Is there any non-exam assessment?
- A Yes. In English Language, you will perform a presentation and take questions from your classmates. This does not count towards your GCSE, but will appear as a separate grade (Distinction, Merit or Pass) on your certificate.