

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

English Language Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Writing

- Ability to select and retrieve relevant implicit and explicit material.
- Explain, analyse and comment on how writers use language to achieve effects and influence readers.
- Explain, analyse and comment on how writers use structure to achieve effects and influence readers.
- Identify and analyse subject terminology.
- Evaluate texts critically with appropriate textual references.
- Communicate clearly and effectively.
- Select and adapt appropriate tone and register for different forms and audiences.
- Organise information and ideas using paragraphs and other structural devices.
- Use a range of vocabulary for clarity and effect.
- Use accurate spelling and punctuation.

English Literature Paper 1: 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde' or 'A Christmas Carol'

- Knowledge of the text and key quotations.
- Understanding of the key themes within 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde': hubris, ambition, nature vs nurture, violence, science vs religion, Darwin's theories and effect on Victorian society, Victorian values and the class system, law and justice.
- The ability to express the text's meaning and personal interpretation.
- Knowledge and understanding of the social, historical and political context that shaped the text.
- Appreciation of setting and symbolism and how they convey meaning.
- Ability to use integrated quotations to support points.
- Ability to use references from the wider text to support points.

English Language Paper 2: Non-fiction writing

- Communicate clearly and effectively.
- Select and adapt appropriate tone and register for different forms and audiences.
- Organise information and ideas using paragraphs and other structural devices.
- Use a range of vocabulary for clarity and effect alongside accurate spelling and punctuation.
- Use of Standard English in speech.
- Use of pause and pitch to engage a listener.
- Structuring a speech with a clear start and end.
- Using interesting and relevant language to engage a listener.

English Language Paper 2: Non-fiction reading (writers' viewpoints)

- Ability to select and retrieve relevant implicit and explicit material.
- Explain, analyse and comment on how writers use language to achieve effects and influence readers.
- Explain, analyse and comment on how writers use structure to achieve effects and influence readers.
- Identify and analyse subject terminology.
- Evaluate texts critically with appropriate textual references.
- Show inference and summarise texts.
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives across two texts from different centuries.
- Compare the way writers use methods across a range of texts.
- Compare critically two texts from different centuries.

English Literature Paper 1: 'Macbeth'

- Knowledge of the key events and key quotations
- Knowledge and understanding of Jacobean context.
- Understanding of Shakespeare's meaning.
- Knowledge and understanding of dramatic irony, pathetic fallacy, in media res, witchcraft and soliloquy.
- Understanding of the key themes within Macbeth: hubris, fate, the supernatural, ambition, chain of being, violence and right of succession, the gunpowder plot, Jacobean fears of political turmoil.
- Shakespeare's dramatic techniques and how to reference productions to explore different interpretations.
- The ability to express the text's meaning and personal interpretation.
- Appreciation of setting and symbolism and how they convey meaning.

English Literature Paper 2: 'Poetry'

- Knowledge of the texts and key quotations.
- Understanding of the key themes: power, conflict, identity, memory and relationships
- The ability to express the text's meaning and personal interpretation.
- Knowledge and understanding of the social, historical and political context that shaped the text.
- Appreciation of poetic devices, and how they convey meaning.

English Literature Paper 2: 'Lord of the Flies'

- Knowledge of the text and key quotations.
- Understanding of the key themes: good and evil, democracy and dictatorship, civilisation and savagery.
- The ability to express the text's meaning and personal interpretation.
- Knowledge and understanding of the social, historical and political context that shaped the text.
- Appreciation of setting and symbolism, and how they convey meaning.

Advice to students for independent study

- Use AQA past papers (OneNote and revision guide) alongside model answers to clarify expectations and practise exam technique.
- Read a range of non-fiction (newspapers, magazines, BBC News app or website) and short stories to become au-fait with the style, layout and techniques.
- Familiarise yourself with the sequence of events in your literature texts. Read and re-read set texts alongside note-taking and analysis of key passages/extracts.
- Select and revise 15 key quotations for each literature text.
- Re-visit lessons and re-write notes. Start making flashcards and key questions to ask teacher or research.
- Spelling tests of key subject terminology.
- Writing tasks – formal and creative.
- Wider reading of C19th extracts to build contextual knowledge and prepare for English language paper 2.
- Listen to podcasts of interest.