

# GCSE English Language

The English Language specification is designed to inspire and motivate students to explore different elements of language. The two examinations are centered around challenging non-fiction and fictional texts. Students will be working to develop their interpretational and analytical skills over the course of the GCSE by reading a range of texts that have shaped and inspired generations of authors. The reading element will act as a springboard for students to develop their own writing and voice, with numerous opportunities for students to write a plethora of different texts from blogs to broadsheet articles.



**Exam Board:** AQA  
**Faculty Leader:** Mrs G Marsh  
**Contact:** gmarsh@decschool.co.uk  
**Assessment:** 100% Exam

## How the course is assessed:

### **Paper 1: Explorations In Creative Reading and Writing**

#### **What is assessed?**

##### *Section A: Reading*

- One literature fiction text

##### *Section B: Writing*

- Descriptive or narrative writing

#### **How it is assessed:**

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 marks
- 50% of GCSE

### **Paper 2: Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives**

#### **What is assessed?**

##### *Section A: Reading*

- One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

##### *Section B: Writing*

- Writing to present a viewpoint

#### **How it is assessed:**

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 80 Marks
- 50% of GCSE

## Career progression:

Where to start?... every job will require some elements of English, but here are some for English lovers

- Digital copywriter
- Editorial Assistant
- English as a foreign language teacher
- Lexicographer
- Magazine Journalist
- Newspaper Journalist
- Publishing
- Copy-editor / proof reader
- Writer
- Academic Librarian
- Primary School teacher
- Records manager
- Blogger

# GCSE English Literature

English Literature is a challenging course that is focused on students' ability to personally engage and critically evaluate texts. The beauty in this qualification is that students are able to engage with such a wide range of texts: Shakespearean tragic heroes; devilish Victorian villains; timeless plays and poetry from different places and time. This is one of the only courses that allows students to form their own opinions and rewards students for their personal responses. We can guarantee that it will introduce you to characters and stories that will stay with you long after you've left school.



## How the course is assessed:

### Paper 1: Shakespeare and 19th Century Prose

#### What is assessed?

- Shakespeare plays, Macbeth
- The 19th-century novel, Jekyll and Hyde

#### How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks
- 40% of GCSE

### Paper 2: Modern Text and Poetry

#### What is assessed?

- Modern prose or drama texts; An Inspector Calls
- The poetry anthology; Power and Conflict Poetry
- Unseen poetry

#### How it is assessed:

- Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 Marks
- 60% of GCSE

## Career progression:

- Writer
- Academic Librarian
- Secondary Teacher
- Lecturer
- Book/Film critic
- Director/screen writer
- Theatre manager
- Screenwriter
- Historian
- Publisher
- Marketing

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