



GCSE English Language and English Literature

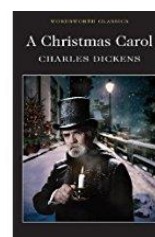
Further Information

How is Year 10 grouped in English?

In September we will have 11 Year 10 GCSE English teaching groups. Both English Language and English Literature are taught to students. The English only course in the previous specification no longer exists. We will however consider entering one small group for Functional Skills and a bespoke English Language course if students find the GCSE inaccessible. Apart from this, all groups will cover the same content, the only difference being text choices for Literature, which will be chosen by the teacher from AQA's selection on the specification (see the texts referred to below).

When grouping for Year 10 we use the students' KS3 English assessments and take into account how much progress they have made since KS2. We also refer to the Year 9 teacher's comments. Due to the pandemic, we decided to group the children in mixed ability classes last year which we've found has worked effectively and helped meet the needs of all students. We have decided to continue with mixed ability classes this year.

In Year 10 both sides of the year group are timetabled at the same time in English so it is likely that students will find that they are not taught with the same children from their Year 9 class. They will also most likely find that they won't be taught by their year 9 teacher. This can make for an unsettling period at first, but students adjust very quickly to their new class and teacher. We politely ask parents not to request that their child be placed in a specific group because they like a particular teacher or want to be with their friends. They are not viewed as a reason for movement between classes. Groups are very carefully balanced in terms of gender and to maintain a spread of ability.

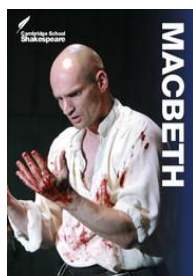


What can my child read in readiness for GCSE?

We suggest that your child read a wide selection of texts: autobiography, biography, travel writing, diaries, 19th century to 21st century fiction covering a range of genres, broadsheet newspapers and articles. The learning resource centre has a wide selection of book lists in the library. Reading lists for GCSE can also be found on the English Department pages on the school website.

What can I do to support my child?

- Discuss what they like/don't like about the set texts
- Talk about a controversial topic in a newspaper article and encourage your child to form an opinion
- Arrange a visit to the theatre (Shakespeare as well as modern playwrights).
- Ask to see your child's notes or essays and talk about what they have learned e.g. what have they found difficult/interesting/unusual
- There are many revision guides that may help students in all areas of both courses, for example Cambridge University Press and Hodder which are both endorsed by AQA.



Both Language and Literature courses are linear and assessed by exam only (with no controlled assessments or coursework). In the written assessments there is much emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar and students will be expected to closely analyse extracts from a wide range of texts showing knowledge of 'whole texts' in their answers. The exams are no longer tiered (Foundation and Higher); instead, the exams will have questions increasing in difficulty throughout the papers.

Literature text choices are: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or A Christmas Carol for the 19th Century novel unit (November of Year 10).

Shakespeare: Macbeth (Year 11)

Modern plays: Inspector Calls, The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time or Blood Brothers (Year 11).

Some examples of a varied selection of poetry set by AQA: 19th century Romantic poets, First World War poets, Carol Ann Duffy, John Agard, Ted Hughes and Tennyson.

Year 10 teachers will make their literature text choices once they have met their classes and we will contact you again with information on which editions to buy in October. The updated GCSE learning journey for next year will be shared on the department pages of the school website in due course which will show assessment weightings and when internally marked unit assessments will be conducted. Parents will also find wider reading lists, a revision guide list and guidance on how to help students in the same area.