

Course Title: GCSE English Language

Awarding Body: AQA

Further information available from: Mr Dare (LDare@ramseyacademy.com)

Why study English Language?

The GCSE English Language course is compulsory. Every student in the Upper School must follow the course. English Language is essential in order to understand and communicate in the wider world and enables students to access all other subjects studied in school and beyond. Writing and reading are the cornerstones of human interaction and are vital to success in society and the workplace.

Course Outline

There is only one tier of entry for English Language which covers the Grades 1 – 9 range.

The specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language in an untiered context. The course enables students to read and analyse different types of text from modern contexts but also from pre twentieth century sources. Writing skills and technical accuracy are developed to cover both fiction and non-fiction genres. Questions are designed to take students on an assessment journey through lower tariff tasks to more extended responses

There are two written papers for the English Language GCSE and a non-examined assessment in Spoken Language.

Assessment Format

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

Assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE



Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%)– one single text

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

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

Assessed

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

Questions

Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)

Writing (40 marks) (25%)

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy).



More information and the full syllabus can be found at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

Reading skills include reading for inference as well as close reading and skimming and scanning for specific information or thematic view. Analysis and evaluation are key skills in understanding and comparing the information provided in different kinds of text. Students will need to demonstrate imagination, control and strategic planning in their approaches to writing for different purposes and audiences.

Possible Careers and Future Education

English is a vital life skill and is useful in all careers and courses. A GCSE English Language grade of 4 or above is highly valued by employers. Most post 16 courses require this for both vocational and non-vocational courses.

Careers in Journalism; Business; Teaching; IT; Accounting; Finance; Law; HR; Publishing and Politics are just some of the areas that can be accessed with an A level or degree in English.

"The limits of my language are the limits of my world" - Ludwig Wittgenstein

