

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE

Course Overview

GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that students should read and be assessed on high-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Students study a range of texts that will include literature and extended literary non-fiction and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online).

This GCSE specification in English Language will require students to study the following content:

- 🏆 Critical reading and comprehension
- 🏆 Written and spoken language.

Examination Board and Assessment

AQA Examination Board			
Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Paper 2	Viewpoints and Perspectives	written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	50%
Non-examination assessment		Spoken Language (presenting, responding to questions and feedback, use of standard English – marked by teacher).	

Students should be aware that if they do not achieve a Grade 4 in English Language, they will be required to resit this at college or sixth form.

ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Course Overview

Literature is the study of an array of literary texts ranging from pre-19th Century to contemporary popular texts.

- ✦ Students will study one complete Shakespeare play and one Modern text.
- ✦ Students will also study one cluster of poems which are thematically linked.
- ✦ Students will develop their ability to closely analyse unseen poems looking at content, theme, structure and use of language.

Examination Board and Assessment

AQA Examination Board			
Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19 th Century novel	written examination 1 hour 45 minutes	40%
Paper 2	Modern texts and poetry	written examination 2 hours 15 minutes	60%

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT: STATEMENT OF CURRICULUM INTENT

INTENT

We aim to teach a wide range of skills in line with the National Curriculum, whilst offering a stimulating framework which captures the enthusiasm and enjoyment of English for students of all abilities. Our key goal is to support all students in achieving their potential. It is a core subject at the heart of many other academic disciplines; we recognise the importance of literacy skills which allow students to communicate with others, both at school and in their everyday lives.

We believe strongly in the importance of reading, both for enjoyment and to aid academic success. Therefore, all Year 7 and 8 students have a timetabled library lesson once a fortnight. We also offer a reading intervention programme for students who require extra support with this extremely important life skill. Independent reading is encouraged at all Key Stages and in Key Stage 3, English lessons often begin with ten minutes private reading to allow students to enjoy reading their own texts and improve their vocabulary. We are committed to offering students a variety of extra-curricular activities and consider this a strength of the department. Recent events have included; theatre trips, workshops, writing workshops run by visiting authors and a year group taking part in the Jack Petchey 'Speak Out' challenge which aids students with building their public speaking skills.

KS3

The KS3 curriculum is designed to prepare students for the rigour of the GCSE examinations and to support them in developing the skills and resilience needed for all exam qualifications. As a result, each unit of study is designed to help foster a passion for the subject in the students, introducing them to a variety of texts that explore a wide range of topics designed to build on the student's cultural knowledge. All units culminate in an exam style assessment which assesses how students have progressed, how they respond in exam conditions and how they meet the exam criteria. The Key Stage 3 curriculum is designed so students can engage, succeed and enjoy the subject of English.

KS4

At KS4, students prepare for the new specification English GCSEs, validated by AQA. Students follow a 2 year course for a double award of English Language and English Literature.

When studying literature, we explore the historical contexts in detail, providing opportunities for students to carry out their own independent research and giving presentations to their peers. We are proud of the rich cultural diversity of the school, providing us with invaluable resources that enable us to tap into such writing as poetry that deals with and celebrates identity. This study is enhanced by the use of visual stimuli such as clips of the poets reading their own work, and by giving students the opportunity to articulate their own responses in relation to their cultural backgrounds. All units culminate in an exam style assessment which assesses how students have progressed, how they respond in exam conditions and how they meet the exam criteria.

AQA GCSE English Language

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

Section A: Reading (40 marks)

- One Literature fiction text (25%)
- 20th or 21st century prose fiction- extracts from novels and short stories: openings, endings, points of view, narrative perspectives etc.

Students must consider how writers use narrative and description techniques to capture the interest of readers.

Section B: Writing (40 Marks)

- Descriptive or narrative writing (25%)
- This will be inspired by the topic they have responded to Section A.
- This will be a response to a written prompt scenario or visual image.

English Language- (8700)

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives**Section A: Reading**

One non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text (40 marks) - 25%

- 19th century and either 20th or 21st century; depending on the time period of Paper 1.
- Two linked sources from different periods and genres
- Students must consider how each text presents a perspective/viewpoint to influence the reader.

Section B: Writing

- Writing to present a viewpoint (40 marks) (25%)
- Students must produce a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme introduced in Section A.

English Literature (8702)

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel**Section A: Shakespeare**

- One question to be answered
- They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play, and then write about the play as a whole.
- 'Macbeth'

Section B: The 19th Century Novel

- Students to answer one question. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then write about the novel as a whole.
- 'A Christmas carol'

English Literature (8702)

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry**Section A: Modern Texts**

- Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two.
- 'An Inspector Calls'

Section B: Poetry

Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem, and one other poem from their chosen Anthology cluster.

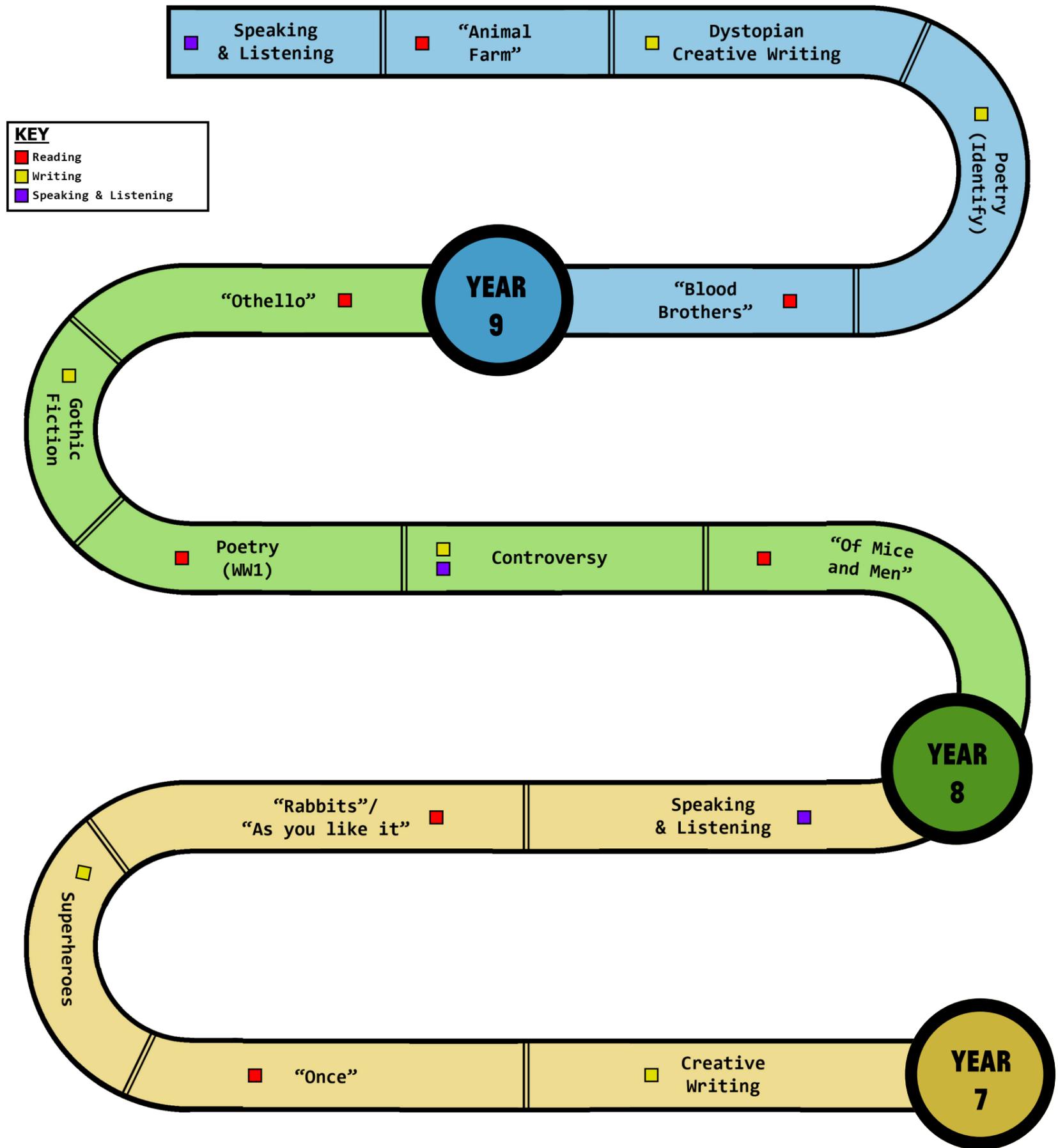
'Power and Conflict'- 15 poems

Section C: Unseen Poetry

Students will answer one question on one unseen poem, and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.



ENGLISH KS3





ENGLISH KS4

