

GCSE English Language/Literature

Every student studies English and will leave Redhill with two GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. More than this, English as a core subject provides students with the skills they need to help produce cohesive, communicative and well-expressed students.

How is the course organised?

- All students will be set according to ability.
- Year 10 and Year 11 is organised as a progressive pathway with all covered topics being relevant to their GCSE studies
- The GCSE exams are as follows:
 - These are: Literature AQA: Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel
Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
 - Language AQA: Paper 1: Explorations in creative writing and reading
Paper 2: Writer's view points and perspectives
- The course is linear with 100% examinations: there is no coursework or controlled assessment aspect.

Course Aims

At the very least, we hope to foster a love of English. Along the way, we will provide students with the analytical skills to help them become critical and appreciative readers, but also help them to become good writers, with the tools required to compose stories, letters and of course, essays! Although speaking and listening is no longer assessed as part of the GCSE qualification, it is retained as an important part of English study and students will be participating in an individual presentation and discussion. This element is called "spoken language" and is an assessed requirement by the exam board.

How is the course assessed?

English Language:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing (exam 50%)

Paper 2: Writer's view points and perspectives (exam 50%)

Spoken language: Does not contribute to overall grade but is awarded as pass, merit or distinction separately

English Literature:

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel— Macbeth and A Christmas (exam 40%)

Paper 2: Modern texts, poetry and unseen—Inspector Calls and conflict and power poetry and unseen poetry(exam – 60%)

What can I do at the end of the course?

GCSE English Language is a statutory requirement for many other post-16 subjects, so getting a grade 4-5 or above is very important. A level English Language, Literature or a combined approach are obvious courses for you if you enjoy English. However, English also hones your analytical skills and these can be extremely useful in subjects such as Law, History or Sociology. Other courses, such as Film Studies, Media Studies or Communications also require a high level of English attainment. If you want to do Drama and Theatre Studies at A level, then Literature is a must.

