

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

at SCGSG

Head of Department:

Mrs J. Manning

AQA - Specification 8700

English Language & English Literature

Students will follow a coherent programme of English leading to **two separate GCSE qualifications** incorporating reading and writing. Speaking and listening skills are assessed separately.

These courses will help develop your ability to:

- Communicate your ideas, knowledge, feelings and points of view;
- Understand and respond sensitively to others;
- Read, enjoy and broaden your experience of literature and non-literary texts;
- Write confidently and accurately in a variety of situations.

What will I study in English Language?

Paper 1: Explorations into Creative Reading and Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Reading (25%) – one literature fiction text

1 short question; 2 longer questions; 1 extended question

Writing (25%) – descriptive or narrative writing

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

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

Reading (25%) – two linked texts: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

1 short question; 2 longer questions; 1 extended question

Writing (25%) – writing to present a viewpoint

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

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language (previously Speaking and Listening).

A formal presentation with questions and feedback, this will be internally assessed.

Why study English Language?

GCSE English Language is more than just a qualification—it's a gateway to the world. Through this course, you'll develop the ability to read, understand, and analyse a wide range of texts, from fiction to non-fiction, while refining your own writing skills to communicate with clarity and confidence. Whether you're crafting compelling narratives, exploring persuasive techniques, or tackling unseen extracts, you'll gain the skills to think critically and express yourself effectively.

A strong grasp of English Language is essential for success in any career path, helping you to argue persuasively, write fluently, and interpret complex ideas with ease. This course also lays the foundation for further study, including A-Level English and beyond.



Where could English take me?

Our students have gone on to study not just English Literature at degree level, but also:

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|---------------------|--------------|
| • History | • Psychology |
| • Civil Engineering | • Law |
| • Classics | • Medicine |
| • Sociology | • Pharmacy |

We also have an excellent record of successful candidates who go on to study at Oxbridge as well as joining many great apprenticeships!

ENGLISH LITERATURE

at SCGSG

Head of Department:

Mrs J. Manning

AQA - Specification 8702

Why study English Literature?

GCSE English Literature allows you to step into the shoes of unforgettable characters, explore powerful themes, and engage with some of the greatest works ever written. Through studying plays, novels, and poetry, you'll develop the ability to analyse how writers craft their stories, use language for effect, and reflect the world around them.

This course not only strengthens your reading and analytical skills but also helps you form your own interpretations and articulate ideas with clarity and confidence. Studying literature fosters empathy, creativity, and critical thinking—skills that are highly valued in further education and any career path.



Required Reading:

Copies of the set texts can be borrowed from our school library, however we recommend purchasing your own copies for annotating:

An Inspector Calls - J. B. Priestley

Macbeth - William Shakespeare

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde - Robert Louis Stephenson

Poetry anthology: Worlds and Lives Cluster (copies provided in school by AQA)

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What will I study in English Literature?

All assessments are closed book.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (40%)

Section A: Shakespeare - Students will answer one question on the play they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B: The 19th Century Novel - Students will answer one question on the novel they have studied. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (60%)

Section A: Modern Texts - Students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the prose or drama text they have studied.

Section B: Poetry - Students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed in the examination booklet and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C: Unseen Poetry - Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

