

English Literature	
Curriculum Intent	
<p>The GCSE English Literature curriculum is designed to develop confident, critical, and independent readers who can engage thoughtfully with a diverse range of literary texts. Through the study of Shakespeare, a nineteenth-century novel, a modern text, and a range of poetry, students explore significant ideas, cultures, and experiences that have shaped and continue to influence society.</p> <p>The curriculum aims to foster a lifelong appreciation of literature while equipping students with the analytical, evaluative, and communication skills required for academic success and future study. Students are encouraged to read widely, think critically, and develop informed personal responses to texts, supported by precise textual evidence and an understanding of writers' methods and contexts.</p> <p>Through a carefully sequenced programme of study, students develop their ability to analyse language, form, and structure, explore the relationship between texts and their contexts, and construct sophisticated written arguments using accurate subject terminology. The curriculum promotes intellectual curiosity, cultural awareness, empathy, and an appreciation of the richness and diversity of the literary heritage.</p> <p>The study of English Literature is closely aligned with English Language, enabling students to transfer and apply key reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills across both subjects. This integrated approach prepares students for success in their GCSE examinations and provides a strong foundation for further academic study and active participation in society.</p>	
Assessment, Marking and Feedback	
<p>At the end of each term, students will complete an assessment in line with the AQA GCSE English Literature specification.</p> <p>Assessments will be based on the texts studied throughout the course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> • <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> • <i>An Inspector Calls</i> • <i>The Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology</i> • Unseen Poetry <p>Students will answer exam-style questions that assess their ability to analyse writers' use of language, form and structure, explore themes and characters, and make relevant links to context where appropriate. Poetry assessments may also require students to compare poems and analyse unseen texts.</p> <p>At the end of Term 5, Year 10 students will complete PPE (Pre-Public Examinations), focusing on the texts studied during Year 10. These assessments are designed to replicate GCSE exam conditions and provide students with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of key literary concepts, analytical skills, and exam techniques.</p> <p>The purpose of these PPEs is to identify strengths and areas for development ahead of Year 11, allowing for targeted intervention and focused revision. They also support a smooth transition into Year 11 by building familiarity with exam timing, question styles, and expectations, helping students to approach their final examinations with confidence and resilience.</p> <p>In line with school policy, teachers will provide feedback within a two-week turnaround period. This marking will be used to inform subsequent teaching, address misconceptions, and support further progress.</p> <p>Students will receive feedback using their Yellow Assessment Papers and will be set targeted progress tasks to improve their responses, deepen their knowledge of the set texts, and further develop their analytical and essay-writing skills.</p>	
Homework	

In line with the school's Praise and Reward Policy, students are set regular independent learning tasks to support their progress in AQA GCSE English Language and Literature. These activities are designed to reinforce classroom learning and develop the knowledge and skills required for success in their GCSE examinations.

Tasks may include exam-style reading and writing activities, retrieval practice, revision of key terminology and concepts, analysis of extracts, and the completion of practice questions linked to the AQA specification. Students are also encouraged to engage with wider reading and revision resources to further develop their literacy skills and exam confidence.

These independent learning opportunities help students to consolidate learning, strengthen exam technique, and prepare effectively for both internal assessments and their final GCSE examinations.

Links to National Curriculum / Syllabus Specifications

Key Stage 4 National Curriculum

[Department for Education](#)

AQA GCSE Literature Specification

[GCSE English 8702 | Specification | AQA](#)

Exam Support & Revision Resources

Text Revision

Focus on:

- Character development and relationships
- Key themes and ideas
- Contextual influences
- Writers' methods (language, form and structure)
- Learning and embedding key quotations
- Constructing analytical essay responses

Texts Studied

Students should regularly revise:

- *Romeo and Juliet*
- *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
- *An Inspector Calls*
- *Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology*
- Unseen Poetry

Revision Activities

Practice ideas:

- Create quotation flashcards for each character and theme
- Complete character and theme mind maps
- Write analytical paragraphs using the PETAL structure
- Annotate extracts and identify writers' methods
- Compare anthology poems linked by theme
- Complete timed essay questions
- Revise key contextual information and link it to the texts

Poetry Practice

Focus on:

- Comparing themes, ideas and perspectives
- Analysing language, form and structure
- Selecting relevant quotations
- Exploring the impact of contextual influences
- Developing comparative essay skills

Practice tasks:

- Compare two poems from the *Power and Conflict* anthology
- Analyse an unseen poem
- Compare an unseen poem with a second unseen poem
- Create revision posters for key anthology poems

Exam Skills Checklist

Literature Essays

- Read the question carefully and identify key words
- Develop a clear argument throughout
- Use short, embedded quotations
- Analyse language, form and structure
- Explore the writer's intentions
- Include relevant contextual links

- Use accurate subject terminology
- Link analysis back to the question

Poetry Comparison

- Compare ideas and themes throughout
- Use evidence from both poems
- Analyse similarities and differences
- Compare writers' methods
- Maintain a balanced comparison

You can find exam support and additional revision resources below:

AQA GCSE English Literature Specification

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

AQA Sample Papers and Mark Schemes

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702/assessment-resources>

BBC Bitesize English Literature

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zr9d7ty>

Seneca Learning GCSE English Literature

<https://senecalearning.com>

Physics & Maths Tutor GCSE English Literature

<https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/english-revision/gcse-aqa/>

Mr Bruff GCSE English Literature Revision

<https://www.youtube.com/@mrbruff>

First Rate Tutors GCSE English Literature Revision

<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstRateTutors>

These resources are designed to help students develop a secure knowledge of the set texts, retain key quotations, strengthen analytical skills and build confidence in preparation for their GCSE English Literature examinations.

Extracurricular and Enrichment Opportunities

Trips/Visits

Students have the opportunity to further enrich their understanding of English Language and Literature through an educational trip to the theatre.

Target Form Year 10

In Year 10, students are placed into one targeted intervention group, based on their current attainment and aspirational target grade. This ensures that support is precisely matched to their individual needs and progress pathway.

These interventions are carefully tailored to close gaps in learning, reinforce key concepts, and build confidence in exam skills, with the overall aim of improving outcomes and supporting students to achieve their English target grade.

Target Forms Year 11

Students are grouped into two intervention pathways: one targeting English 4+ and one targeting English 5+, ensuring that support is precisely matched to their current attainment and target grades.

These interventions are carefully tailored to individual needs and are designed to close gaps in learning, reinforce key concepts, and ensure students are fully equipped to meet or exceed their target grade. The overall aim is to improve exam performance and support students in achieving their English 4+ and 5+ progress targets.

Afterschool revision

After-school revision sessions are available for students to support progress in AQA GCSE English Language and Literature. These sessions provide structured opportunities to revisit key exam skills, address misconceptions, and strengthen understanding of both reading and writing components. GCSE set texts studied on the course.

This experience helps students to deepen their understanding of plot, character, themes, and context, while also supporting their ability to analyse how meaning is created in live performance.

Interested to know more?

To Read:

- Revision guides and knowledge organisers for *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, *An Inspector Calls*, and the *Power and Conflict* Poetry Anthology.
- BBC Bitesize GCSE English Literature revision materials and text guides.
- Wider reading linked to the themes of the GCSE texts, such as conflict, power, responsibility, love, and social inequality.

To Watch:

- Mr Bruff GCSE English Literature revision videos.
- First Rate Tutors GCSE English Literature lessons and exam walkthroughs.
- Live or recorded performances of *Romeo and Juliet* and *An Inspector Calls* to develop understanding of characterisation, themes, and dramatic methods.

To Listen:

- BBC Sounds Bitesize GCSE revision podcasts.
- Audiobook versions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*, and *An Inspector Calls*.
- Poetry podcasts exploring the themes and meanings of the *Power and Conflict* anthology poems.

To Visit:

- Theatre productions of GCSE set texts, such as *Romeo and Juliet* or *An Inspector Calls*.
- Local libraries to access a wide range of fiction, poetry, and literary criticism.
- Museums and cultural venues, such as the Charles Dickens Museum, to deepen understanding of Victorian society and literary heritage.
- Literary festivals, author talks, and poetry events that promote engagement with literature and the wider literary world.