

GCSE
ENGLISH

and

ENGLISH
LITERATURE



Task	Qualification/ Percentage	Detail
Personal and Imaginative Writing	English 10%	Students write either a directed task or an optional task using their preferred style (e.g. travel log, diaries, stories, article). They are assessed in three areas, but the important marks are for technical accuracy rather than brilliant imagination. Stories should be limited in length. It could just be one chapter or a portion of a longer story, in which case a synopsis would be useful.
Other Cultures	English 5%	They can use stock books such as Angela's Ashes, Things Fall Apart or Walkabout. There is a collection of stories in the Anthology. The question must focus on the culture; this is not a straightforward literary essay.
Shakespeare	English 5% Literature 10%	This is a crossover piece although you could do two separate pieces in order to ensure you hit the criteria. You can do any play from Shakespeare EXCEPT plays they have studied at KS3 (for most this is Macbeth and Richard III) and it would be better to avoid those taught at AS. Titles need careful crafting to ensure you hit both Literature and English criteria – see exemplar folder.
Pre 1914 Poetry	Literature 10%	They must study a collection of poetry, from which they must select five poems. Students must not go from poem to poem offering brief analysis, but should select two of the five to compare and contrast in detail, with references and quotations from the other three. It is better if the poetry is themed (e.g. love, death, religion, nature etc)
Pre 1914 Prose	Literature 10%	Students need to study a substantial text published before 1914. They can offer work on a collection of short stories, but this does tend to read in a less fluent fashion and is therefore not advisable for weaker students. Answers should make references to context and offer some detailed analysis of language.

CRUCIAL DATES

Students must be ready for the Year 10 Examinations at the beginning of **JUNE**.

Students must be ready for a full Literature Examination and an English Mock in **DECEMBER** in Year 11.

Folders of Coursework will be taken in during **FEBRUARY** of Year 11. The deadline date will be set each year in September. Moderators will need these folders by the end of the Spring Term.

Speaking and Listening Marks will be taken in by the Easter Holidays (normally end of March) in Year 11.

All students take part in a formal small group Speaking and Listening assessment at the beginning of Year 11.

There are FIVE UNITS of WRITTEN COURSEWORK

Unit 1 – Personal Writing

Assessment Objectives:

- They must show they are sharply focused with a clear sense of audience.
- Writing should be compelling.
- They need to show an extensive vocabulary.
- They should show mature control the construction of varied sentences, with sophisticated and skilful paragraphing.
- They should make effective use of cohesive devices.
- They should show they are using the conventions/devices of the writing triplet.
- They must use a full range of punctuation.
- Their expression is assured and correct.
- Spelling is accurate.

It is much harder to sustain this in a very long story. It is important that students realise that a partial story/chapter is acceptable. They will be given ideas to practise on and to improve.

Unit 2 – Other Cultures

A book or collection of short stories will be selected by your teacher.

Assessment Criteria

- It should be a cogent and critical response to the text.
- They must evaluate evidence and draw conclusions.
- They must use textual quotations.
- They make comparisons either within the text or with other texts.
- They evaluate the distinctive cultural context.
- They consider the writer's role (philosopher, social commentator, narrator?)
- They give weight to the critical study of the writer's craft and their exploitation of language and its devices.

There is no instruction in the Specification that says they have to read the whole of the text, but the whole text does have to be studied (see p7). It is, however, generally advisable for you to have an understanding of the whole text before you write the coursework.

Unit 3 – Shakespeare

This is a crossover piece of work with Literature. It is worth 10% for Literature and 5% for English. If necessary, two separate marks can be given.

It is important that they do not repeat a play that they have studied at KS3; it is prohibited in the examination rules. In recent years these have been Macbeth and Richard III. Please also avoid Hamlet (AS text) and Othello (A2 text).

Bearing in the mind the pressure on texts, please try to ensure that the students do not keep the texts beyond the teaching unit. All Shakespeare texts are available on the internet if they still need access.

Assessment Criteria

- It should be a cogent and critical response to the text.
- They must evaluate evidence and differing interpretations.
- They must use textual quotations.
- They make comparisons within the text.
- They give weight to the critical study of the writer's craft and their exploitation of language and its devices.
- They consider the social, moral and philosophical context and significance.
- They develop ideas about the structure and presentation.
- They identify and comment on social, historical and cultural context.
- They show awareness of the literary tradition.

Unit 4 – Pre 1914 Poetry

Your teacher will select poems for the class. Poems do not have to be linked thematically; you may study a selection of Blake or Tennyson for example. This is for the Literature file and is worth 10%.

The students must mention five poems in their essay. They should, however, focus on two.

Assessment Criteria

- It should be a critical and sensitive response to the range of poems.
- They must evaluate evidence and differing interpretations.
- They must use textual quotations.
- They make comparisons within the text.
- They give weight to the critical study of the writer's craft and their exploitation of language and its devices.
- They consider the social, moral and philosophical context and significance.
- They develop ideas about the structure and presentation.
- They identify and comment on social, historical and cultural context.
- They show awareness of the literary tradition.

Unit 5 – Pre 1914 Prose

This is a Literature piece and therefore worth 10%. A National Curriculum author must be chosen. The teacher will select a novel or a collection of short stories to be studied in class. Alternatively, they may decide students can select their own novel and work more independently.

It is important that they do not repeat a text that they have studied at KS3; these include: War of the Worlds, Hound of the Baskervilles, A Christmas Carol, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde and Treasure Island.

Assessment Criteria

- It should be a cogent and critical response to the text.
- They must evaluate evidence and differing interpretations.
- They must use textual quotations.
- They make comparisons within the text.
- They give weight to the critical study of the writer's craft and their exploitation of language and its devices.
- They consider the social, moral and philosophical context and significance.
- They develop ideas about the structure and presentation.
- They identify and comment on social, historical and cultural context.
- They show awareness of the literary tradition.

Texts for Examinations

We provide texts for the coursework and the Anthology, but we expect students to purchase their own copies of the play and the novel for the Literature examinations.

The most common novel studied is Lord of the Flies by William Golding.

Different teachers will use different plays and teachers may chose to alternate the play that they teach. The following plays are the most commonly used:

A View From the Bridge by Arthur Miller

Journey's End by R C Sherriff

An Inspector Calls by J B Priestley

Specification

We use Edexcel's Specification A for English. We use Edexcel's English Literature qualification. Their website is at www.edexcel.org.uk

Examinations in English

There are two examinations. They are usually in the same week and fairly early in the examination season.

Paper 1 – The Craft of the Writer – 2 hours

Reading

Poetry from the Anthology

Non-fiction from the Anthology

Writing

Inform, Explain, Describe

Paper 2 – Media - 2 hours

Reading

Unseen Media

Writing

Argue, Persuade, Advise

Analyse, Review, Comment

Examinations in Literature

There is one examination. This is usually one of the first examinations they take.

2.25 hours

Poetry from the Anthology

Modern Drama

Modern Prose or Literary Non Fiction

Speaking and Listening

The Speaking and Listening marks make up 20% of the English folder and are therefore crucial for the student to do well.

Students should have a chance to take part in a variety of tasks and to do them more than once – we are allowed to accept their best marks in a type of task.

Importantly, DRAMA based tasks can take a very long time to prepare. They need to do at least two of these in Year 10 as Year 11 is often too busy to cope with preparing drama work.

They should also do small group or pair based tasks and individual tasks.

There will be a formal assessment of Speaking and Listening once in the GCSE course. This will be a small group activity and its purpose is to moderate our own marks as well as ensure the students understand that the Speaking and Listening work is serious.