

**Year 10 and 11
English**

Introduction and Overview

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Aims and Values:

As a Department, we strive towards achieving the following goals:

- *To ensure that all lessons are valuable learning experiences for all of our students. We also aim to ensure that they are appropriately constructed to suit the needs of the individuals in our care.*
- *To provide our students with the necessary skills in speaking and listening, reading and writing to engage fully with life after Sir John Talbot's School.*
- *To prepare our students for life after school, providing them with appropriate skills to help them: belong within their community, believe in their own abilities and achieve their goals.*
- *To develop a love of reading amongst all of our students, with all students achieving a GCSE in English Literature.*
- *To give learners a greater understanding of how English Language and English Literature are placed within an appreciation of English culture and heritage.*
- *Students are assessed every half term on their ability to read fluently, write with technical accuracy and speak confidently.*
- *During the Summer Term, students will read the novel 'Millions' by Frank Cottrell Boyce and 'The Canterbury Tales' by Geoffrey Chaucer. Students will be assessed on creative writing that focuses on alternative viewpoints and how language has changed over time*

Miss Catriona McCausland – Head of Communications Faculty and Subject Leader for English

Miss Rachel Murdoch – Subject Leader for Literacy across the Curriculum

Mrs Emma Parkinson- Head of Key Stage 4 and 5 Upper School

How to support your child

One of the best ways to support your child is to check their planners and discuss their homework with them. Also, reading newspapers and discussing the news is an effective way of ensuring your child learns about the world around them.

Alternatively, you can purchase CPD revision books, which can be ordered from school.

Web Links

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/zr9d7ty>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/english_literature/

Additional Reading

'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck

'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley

Summary of assessment

Unit 1 - Understanding and producing non-fiction texts

Section A: Reading

At Tier H candidates answer four compulsory questions based on three reading sources.

At Tier F candidates answer four compulsory questions, including those requiring short responses, based on three shorter reading sources

Section B: Writing

At both Tiers candidates do two compulsory writing tasks – one shorter task worth 16 marks and one longer task worth 24 marks.

Unit 2 - Speaking and Listening

Candidates must be assessed on three equally weighted activities:

Presenting

Discussing and listening

Role playing

Each activity will be marked separately out of 15 and the marks added together to give a final mark out of 45.

Unit 3 - Understanding spoken and written texts and writing creatively

Part a: Extended reading – candidates choose one task from the bank of published titles for the series the candidate certificates. They must consider one extended text which may be a text that they are also using for GCSE English Literature. The definition of 'extended text' is given under the detailed guidance for this unit in Section 3c. You will give one mark out of 30.

Part b: Creative writing – candidates choose two tasks from the bank of published titles for the series the candidate certificates. The two tasks do not have to be equal in length as this will be determined by the type of creative writing they choose to do. Twenty marks are available for content and organisation and 10 marks are available for accuracy. You will mark each writing task out of 10 marks and give an overall mark out of 10 for accuracy. The marks will be added together to give a final mark out of 30.

Part c: Spoken language study – candidates choose one task from the bank of published titles for the series the candidate certificates. You will give one mark out of 20.

English Literature

Unit 1: Exploring Modern Texts

External examination

40% of the total GCSE marks

1 hour 30 mins

68* marks based on two texts that have been studied. The texts are 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck and 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley. The paper is broken down into Section A and Sections B.

Section A: Modern prose or drama, 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B Priestley.

20% of the total GCSE marks

45 mins

34 marks

Section B: Exploring cultures 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck.

20% of the total GCSE marks

45 mins

34 marks

Unit 2: Poetry Across Time

External examination

35% of the total GCSE marks

1 hour 15 mins

54 marks

This exam has two sections, A and B. Section A will cover the poems studied in class from the AQA anthology; either 'Character and Voice' or 'Conflict'. Students will be required to undertake an exam based on their given topic as follows:

Section A: Poetry cluster from the Anthology

23% of the total GCSE marks

45 mins

36 marks

Section B: Responding to an unseen poem

12% of the total GCSE marks

30 mins

18 marks

Controlled Assessment: Unit 3 The significance of Shakespeare and The English Literary Heritage.

25% of the total GCSE marks 3-4 hours and it is worth 40 marks. The controlled assessment requires students to study and analyse a Shakespearean play and compare how themes are presented with a selection of poems from the Literary Heritage.