

The Department

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Ms E Sanderson – Teacher of English
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Year 9

GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

The study of GCSE English Language and English Literature begins in Year 9 by incorporating the skills and success criteria that will be fundamental to students' progress in Years 10 and 11. Students in Year 9 study a range of topics, covering both English Language and English Literature GCSE skills. There is a strong emphasis on writing skills throughout the year, particularly the technical accuracy needed for coherence and fluency at a GCSE level.

Units include: the study of three or more Sherlock Holmes stories, written by Arthur Conan Doyle; creative prose writing (story writing); the understanding and analysis of prepared and unseen poetry; comparison and analysis of the openings to a number of Shakespeare plays; and learning how to construct an extensive literature essay with an appropriate critical style, using a novel, such as 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald, 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell or 'Heroes' by Robert Cormier as stimulus.

Years 10 and 11

GCSE English Language – Exam Board: Eduqas (formerly WJEC)

In English Language, learning focuses on developing the skills required for two exam components. There is no controlled assessment component. The reading elements require students to read and answer questions on twentieth-century fiction in Component 1, and nineteenth and twenty-first century non-fiction writing in Component 2. The writing tasks include creative prose writing (story writing) in Component 1 and transactional writing in Component 2. This involves writing for a clear purpose and audience, in a range of styles, including the ability to write letters, reviews, reports, articles, leaflets and speeches. Both components of the examinations will be examined at the end of Year 11.

GCSE English Literature – Exam Board: Edexcel

For the English Literature specification, students will read and analyse 'Romeo and Juliet' by Shakespeare, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'An Inspector Calls' by J B Priestley. The questions will involve close language analysis of a given extract, as well as explorative essays requiring a critical style. Students will also be tested on their understanding of prepared and unseen poetry. The poetry anthology includes 15 poems on the area of 'conflict'. All literature texts and poetry will be examined at the end of Year 11 and will be closed-book examinations.

The English Department recommends the following texts and study guides for GCSE:

- A Christmas Carol: Puffins Classics ISBN 978-0141-32452-4
- Romeo and Juliet: Longman School Shakespeare ISBN 0-582-84874-1
- An Inspector Calls: Heinemann ISBN 978-0-435232-82-5

In addition, we recommend the [York Notes for GCSE Study Guides New for GCSE \(9-1\)](#) for all three texts. There are also accompanying work books.

Post-16

Shelley College offers two excellent English courses: **English Language** and **English Literature**.

English Language is a fantastic course which explores the diversity of the English language through spoken, written and electronic forms. This A Level takes you from the interesting ways in which we adapt our language dependant on our gender, age and regional background, to a fascinating exploration of how children learn to speak, read and write. The journalism focus of our coursework is a popular feature, with many of our students taking this area forward to study at degree level.

The English Literature course offers a wide variety of modern and classic, prose, poetry and drama texts. Key focus areas include the Gothic tradition, dystopian literature and plays from the American tragedy genre. This engaging and challenging course allows you to experience, explore and analyse the texts, immersing yourself in the themes, characters, contexts and alternative readings of these enthralling narratives.

English Language

AS Level English Language – Exam Board: Edexcel

Students will be introduced to the key language frameworks before going on to explore children's language development, features of different text types (speech, electronic, multi-modal) and the impact identity on language choices (gender, age, power, region...). They will also explore a range of different text types for the creative writing element of the course. At the end of Y12, students will commence their A2 coursework in which they write two features articles.

The English Department recommends the following Study guides

- *Edexcel AS English Language Student Book (Publisher - Edexcel)*

Past exam papers and sources can also be accessed on the exam board website :
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

A Level English Language – Exam Board: Edexcel

Students complete their coursework, in which they write two feature articles and an analytical commentary before going on to study the history of the English language in order to explore how language has varied over time. Students will also complete their own research into a selected topic area in which they will collect, analyse and evaluate data.

The English Department recommends the following Study guides

- *Edexcel A2 English Language Student Book (Publisher - Edexcel)*

Past exam papers and sources can also be accessed on the exam board website :
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

English Literature

AS Level English Literature – Exam Board: Edexcel

Students will be studying the following texts

- *Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe, ISBN 9780582817807.*

- *Poems of the Decade (An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry) Selected by William Sieghart, ISBN 9780571325405*
- *Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Penguin Classics ISBN 978-0141439471*
- *The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood, Vintage, ISBN 978-0099740919.*

Coursework texts

- *Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller (Penguin Modern Classics)*
- *A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller (Penguin Modern Classics)*

Students will develop their knowledge of literary terminology whilst learning to analyse language, structure and form in their explorations of the writer's craft. They will go on to develop an appreciation for the contextual influences on the texts as well as being introduced to critical approaches.

The English Department recommends the following study guides.

- *Doctor Faustus, York Notes Advanced, ISBN 9780582784260*
- *Frankenstein York Notes for AS & A2, Byron ISBN 978-1447913214*
- *The Handmaid's Tale York Notes Advanced, ISBN 978-0582784369*
- Philip Allan Literature Guide (for A-Level): *Death of a Salesman*, ISBN 978-1444121582

Past exam papers and sources can also be accessed on the exam board website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

A Level English Literature – Exam Board: Edexcel

Students will need the following texts:

- *Doctor Faustus by Christopher Marlowe, ISBN 9780582817807.*
- *Poems of the Decade (An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry) Selected by William Sieghart, ISBN 9780571325405*
- *Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Penguin Classics ISBN 978-0141439471*
- *The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood, Vintage, ISBN 978-0099740919*
- *Othello, William Shakespeare, Oxford School Shakespeare ISBN 9780198328735*
- *A Modernist Poetry Anthology – **please note this will be provided by the English Department.***

Coursework texts

- *Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller (Penguin Modern Classics)*
- *A View from the Bridge, Arthur Miller (Penguin Modern Classics)*

Students will revisit all texts from year 12, studying the characters, themes, structure, form and language used, as well as developing an appreciation for the contextual influences on the text. Students will also be required to develop an awareness and application of critical approaches and understand the connections between texts. In Y13, students will be introduced to Shakespeare's classic, 'Othello' and poetry from the Modernist movement.

The English Department also recommends the following study guides.

- *Doctor Faustus, York Notes Advanced, ISBN 9780582784260*
- *Frankenstein York Notes for AS & A2, Byron ISBN 978-1447913214*
- *The Handmaid's Tale York Notes Advanced, ISBN 978-0582784369*
- Philip Allan Literature Guide (for A-Level): *Death of a Salesman*, ISBN 978-1444121582
- Philip Allan Literature Guide (for A-Level): *Othello*, ISBN 978-1444116229

Past exam papers and sources can also be accessed on the exam board website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

