

GCSE English Language

Your child will sit the AQA GCSE English Language in the summer of 2021.

This specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

Both papers for the English Language GCSE include unseen extracts. It is imperative students read as much as possible, both fiction and non-fiction, in order to achieve their potential.

Later this year, revision cards will be provided to all students for English Language with all recommended strategies and approaches for each question.

Students will also be assessed during the academic year for spoken language. This will be recorded as a separate grade on students' certificates as not classified, pass, merit or distinction.

GCSE English Language exam breakdown:

Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Fiction

4 reading questions in section A

- Q1 is retrieval of 4 pieces of information
- Q2 is on language analysis
- Q3 is on structure analysis
- Q4 is an evaluation question

1 writing question in section B

- Q5 is a choice between two tasks that will either test students' descriptive or narrative skills

Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

Nonfiction

4 reading questions in section A

- Q1 is selecting 4 true statements
- Q2 is a summary question
- Q3 is on language analysis
- Q4 is a comparison question

1 writing question in section B

- Q5 is one given nonfiction writing task, where students could be asked to write a letter, speech, essay, article, or the words of a leaflet.

Both papers are 1hr 45mins and each equally-weighted paper is worth 80 marks in total.

Home learning

The English curriculum area will set a minimum of two home learning tasks for each week that will cover topics in both Language and Literature. Both tasks will be online so please inform us if this is an issue.

The first task will be a knowledge quiz to check your child's current knowledge and understanding. This will be available on Firefly as a multiple choice quiz covering topics learnt previously in lesson. The results of the quiz will help us shape lesson content and learning.

The second task will be a flipped learning task. It requires your child to complete the home learning task to be fully ready for one of the lessons in the next week. This will also be made available through Firefly.

Contacting your child's English teacher

To contact your child's English teacher, please email using the teachers first initial and surname followed by @jackhunt.net

As Curriculum Area Leader for English, you can contact me on
dhemmings@jackhunt.net

GCSE English Literature

Your child will sit the Edexcel GCSE English Literature in the summer of 2021.

Due to coronavirus, students will only study three of the four literature components for this academic year; therefore, students will not be examined on poetry in this examination series.

It is imperative students read their set texts as many times as possible in order to achieve their potential.

We highly recommend purchasing the set text and the study guides for each of the set texts.

GCSE English Literature exam breakdown:

Paper 1 – Shakespeare and post-1914 literature

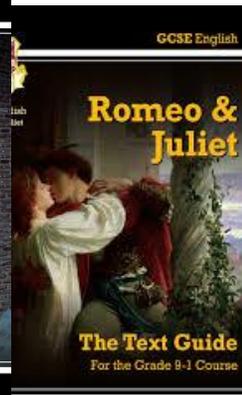
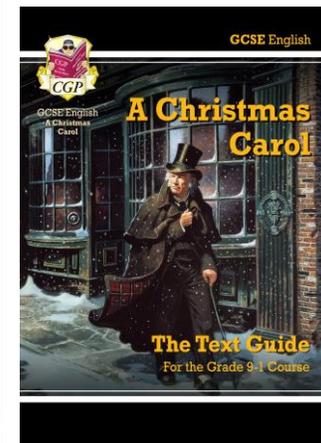
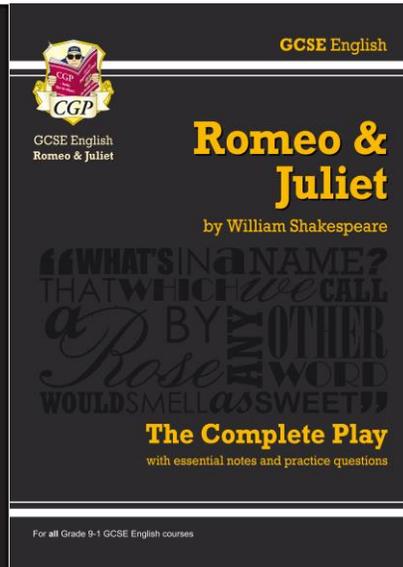
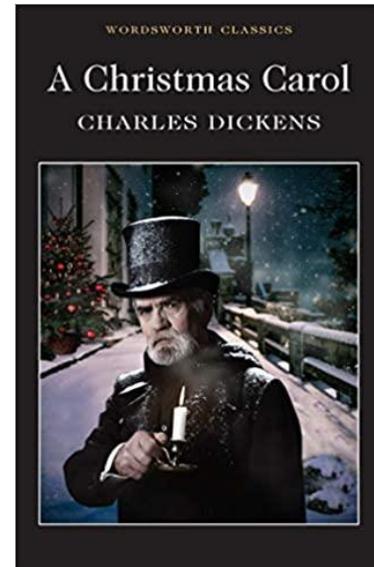
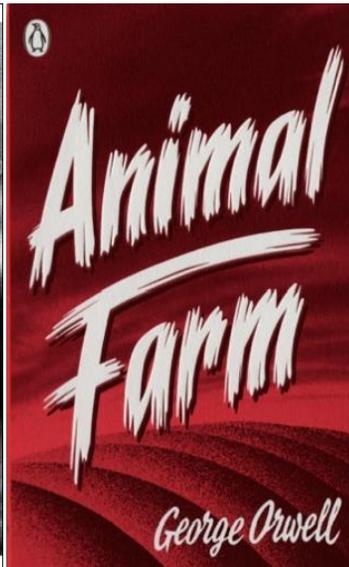
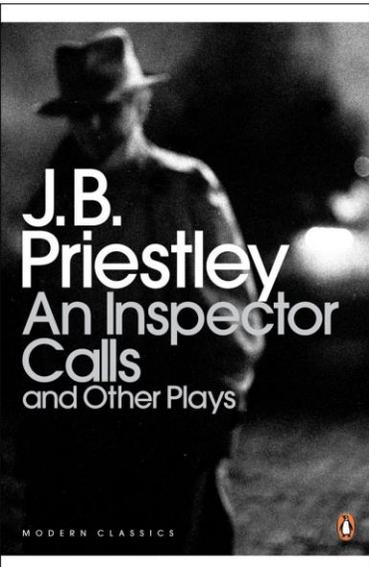
1hr 45mins

- 1 question in 2 parts for *Romeo and Juliet*. 1st part based on an extract, and the 2nd is an essay question for the text as a whole.
- 1 question from a choice of 2 for *An Inspector Calls* or *Animal Farm* (depending on which class your child is in). Students are awarded up to 8 marks for their spelling, punctuation and grammar on this question.

Paper 2 – 19th century novel

1hr 20mins

- 1 question in 2 parts for *A Christmas Carol*. 1st part based on an extract, and the 2nd is an essay question for the text as a whole.



How can you help support your child's success?

Through everyday conversations

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How can you help?

Promote reading at home – just short extracts of no more than the equivalent of a side of A4.

For paper 1, search Google for fiction extracts, and use newspapers/news apps (like BBC) for paper 2.

Ask your child about what they have read today. For fiction, ask about character and description. For nonfiction, ask about their view on the topic and the writer's view on the topic discussed.

How can you help?

Ask your child about how the last fiction text they read is structured using the keywords shift and focus. This can be applied to any narrative, so works for film or TV shows as well.

Promote evaluation by asking your child to pass judgement on any chosen topic. They would need to decide how successful the topic has been presented.

How can you help?

Discuss unfamiliar words that you or your child come across.

Ask your child to explain 3 writers' methods to you. Every time you do this, ask for a different 3 methods.

How can you help?

Timings are so important in the exams; therefore, where possible, give your child time limits for completing tasks at home.

Ask your child to explain effects. When they read or watch something, ask them what it makes them think, feel and/or imagine and why this is.

How can you help?

The exam topic for nonfiction writing will be something your child can relate to; therefore, ask your child their view and perspective on a top story from the day's news.

To do this, encourage your child to keep up-to-date with the news.

How can you help?

Promote planning and checking of work. You could do this by asking your child to verbally plan a story and encouraging them to check any task they have completed.

If watching a film or TV show, ask your child how they can use the ideas in their creative writing.

How can you help?

Ask your child to verbally compare two things by using language of comparison, like similarly, on the other hand, alternatively, likewise, etc.

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How can you help?

Encourage your child to re-read the set texts for GCSE Literature at home.

Ask your child to summarise the plot of their set texts in no more than 3 sentences.

Question your child about the characters in the texts they are studying.

Question your child about the most important themes in the texts, and ask them to tell you why they think this.

How can you help?

Watch the film versions of our Literature texts together and ask your child to explain the differences between the film and the book.

How can you help?

Responding to literature requires students to develop empathy. Ask your child to put themselves in the shoes of a character and explain their feelings.