Year 8 Options 2020

GCSE English Language

Examination Board: AQA
Course Specification: 8700

What is GCSE English Language all about?

GCSE English Language will develop your reading and writing skills. You will read a range of texts written between the 19th century to the 21st century and covering a range of themes and genres. You will develop your writing so that you can write in a range of different styles and purposes as well as for different audiences.

Course Structure:

You will study a range of extracts from texts on different topics and themes to develop your knowledge about how writers use language and structure to influence and interest their audiences. These extracts will be from both fiction and non-fiction texts written from 1800 to the present day.

You will have the opportunity develop your creative writing in a wide range of styles for a range of different purposes and audiences. You will build upon the techniques you already know from Year 8 so that you are able to express your views in a way that will achieve the maximum amount of impact on your audience.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written examinations for English Language, there are no tiers of entry for this subject. At the end of the three year course, candidates will be awarded a grade from 1 to 9. Grade 9 is highest grade.

Paper 1

Explorations in creative reading and writing: 1 hour 45 min exam. 80 marks. 50% of GCSE.

Section A Reading (40 marks 25% of GCSE) 4 questions about extracts you have read.
Section B Writing (descriptive or narrative) (40 marks 25% of GCSE) 1 extended creative answer.

Paper 2

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives: 1 hour 45 mins exam. 80 marks. 50% of GCSE.

Section A Reading (40 marks 25% of GCSE) 4 questions about a non-fiction extract and literary non-fiction extract you have read.
Section B Writing – writing to present a viewpoint (40 marks 25% of GCSE) 1 extended creative answer.

Spoken Language – will also be tested by your teacher. For this element of your course you will receive a Spoken Language endorsement which will not count towards your GCSE grade. For this element of the course you will be assessed on how you present, respond to questions/feedback and your use of Standard English.

What could I do next with GCSE English Language?

This GCSE will open the door to a wide variety of sixth form or college courses. In the sixth form at Sandbach School we offer A Level English Language and English Literature that this course will prepare you for.