

English Language

GCSE

2024 - 2026



Examination Board

AQA - 8700

Core Subject

What will I be studying?

Students will study the skills of reading, writing, comprehension and analysis for this exam.

Using unseen extracts (both fiction and non-fiction), students will learn the outline of the exams that will be sat at the end of the course and practise using the skills for success.

How will I be studying?

Students will complete practise questions and receive feedback. Examples of papers will be a mixture of official past-papers and exciting, engaging extracts from modern texts and current, topical world-issues.

Student will practise their reading, comprehension and analysis skills for the first section of both exams, and their writing skills for the second section of both exams.

How will I be assessed?

Two Exam Papers:

1. Paper One: *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Fiction)*
1hr 45mins
Students will receive one fictional extract and answer four reading questions in response to the extract.
Students will then spend the rest of the exam writing a piece of their own creative writing inspired by a prompt.
2. Paper Two: *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Non-Fiction)*
1hr 45mins

Students will receive two non-fiction extracts, linked by a common theme. They will then answer four questions in response to the texts. Students will then spend the rest of the exam writing a piece of their own non-fiction, transactional writing, inspired by a prompt.

Spoken Language NEA: Students should be prepared to present an opinion or argument to the class or small group. Here, they are assessed on their ability to communicate formally using the English language. This is marked as pass / merit / distinction and does not have an effect on the overall grade for the English Language GCSE. However, it is a compulsory component.

Where Next?

Most colleges will require a grade 4 to study beyond GCSE level in most subjects.

Therefore, this qualification can unlock doors to most professions.

In English specifically, this qualification may lead to any of the following:

- **A-Level English Language (Available at Wigston College)**
- **A-Level English Literature (Available at Wigston College)**
- **Creative Writing courses (A-Level and beyond)**