

## GCSE English Language (AQA – Specification code: 8700)

### What is GCSE Language?

The AQA GCSE (9-1) English Language qualification is designed to inspire and motivate our students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all students. It enables our students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. Students will be assessed on two equally-balanced papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way.

### During this course students will learn and develop the following skills:

- read a wide range of texts, fluently and with good understanding
- read critically, and use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language.

In addition, they must enable students to:

- listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken Standard English effectively.

### How will I be assessed?

#### What's assessed: Paper 1

##### Section A: Reading

one literature fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

descriptive or narrative writing

#### Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

#### Questions

**Reading (40 marks) (25%)**– one single text

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 20 marks)

**Writing (40 marks) (25%)**

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

#### What's assessed: Paper 2

##### Section A: Reading

one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

##### Section B: Writing

writing to present a viewpoint

#### Assessed

written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks  
50% of GCSE

**Questions**

**Reading (40 marks) (25%)** – two linked texts

1 short form question (1 x 4 marks)

2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks)

1 extended question (1 x 16 marks)

**Writing (40 marks) (25%)**

1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)

**What type of careers can English Language lead to?**

**Speech and Language Therapy**

**Teaching**

**Teacher of English as a Foreign Language**

**Higher Education**

**Translation and interpreting**

**Publishing**

**Law**

**Advertising**

**Government**

**Film Industry**

**Journalist**

**How can I support my studies at home?**

The OSSMA English department utilises websites and educational apps such as GCSE Pod and Seneca which have content that compliments what is taught in lessons. GCSE revision packs are provided to all students, containing past papers, to ensure students are more prepared before their exams.