

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE SNAPSHOT

OVERVIEW

Whether you already teach our existing GCSE English Language specification, or are considering offering the course for the first time, we aim to provide both teachers and students with the resources they need to achieve excellence in the study of English.

Our revised specification, comprising of two externally and two internally assessed units, gives students the opportunity to explore texts, words and images and learn how to express opinions, form independent views and challenge ideas. It will provide a sound basis for progression to further study, higher education or employment.

SPECIFICATION SUMMARY

The GCSE English Language specification has four units:

- Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts (one written examination);
- Unit 2: Speaking and Listening (controlled assessment);
- Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language (controlled assessment); and
- Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts (one written examination).

BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

Our GCSE in English Language helps to:

- develop independent study skills that enable students to prepare for further study or employment;
- develop creative, individual responses to problems; and
- select and adapt speech and writing to different situations and audiences.

CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES THAT WILL BE DEVELOPED

Through this course, students will:

- enhance their oral and written communication skills by learning how to express viewpoints and present an argument;
- gain experience in using ICT to research and present information;
- develop their planning, time management and self-evaluation skills;
- learn from others through discussion, group work and shared tasks; and
- increase their ability to use critical analysis, propose ideas, opinions or decisions and be able to justify them.



UNIQUE FEATURES OF THIS QUALIFICATION/ IMPROVEMENTS MADE

The specification provides a range of opportunities for students to develop and practise core reading, writing and oral skills and to apply these skills in a variety of real life contexts. It also complements the skills assessed in the GCSE English Literature specification.

In this unitised course, students may be entered for any of the four units from Summer 2018 and the externally assessed units (Unit 1 and Unit 4) beginning January 2019.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT

CONTENT	CONTENT SUMMARY	ASSESSMENT	WEIGHTING
Unit 1	Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts	External written examination Untiered 1 hour 45 mins Students respond to five tasks.	30%
Unit 2	Speaking and Listening	Controlled assessment Untiered Teachers assess the tasks, and we moderate the outcomes.	20%
Unit 3	Studying Spoken and Written Language	Controlled assessment Untiered Teachers assess the tasks, and we moderate the outcomes.	20%
Unit 4	Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts	External written examination Untiered 1 hour 45 mins Students respond to four tasks	30%

SUPPORTING YOU

In person

As your local awarding organisation, we can provide personalised support and visits to you and your centre upon request. Contact the Specification Support Officer if you would like to arrange for us to visit you, your department or your students.

At teacher-focused events

We provide a comprehensive programme of events to support the revised specification, which includes:

- free launch events to introduce you to the specification; and
- free seminars to support its teaching and assessment and to assist you with subject-specific issues.

We will mail invitations to heads of department at least three weeks before each event. Alternatively, see our full list of support events online at www.ccea.org.uk

Online

Most of the support we provide will be available on our subject microsite. The site will contain:

- the latest version of the specification;
- planning frameworks;
- Chief Examiner's reports with top tips for improving examination performance;
- specimen assessment materials; and
- exemplification of standards (available after the first examination series).

SPECIFICATION SNAPSHOT

For first teaching from September 2017

For first assessment in Summer 2018

For first award in Summer 2018



GCSE English Language

COUNCIL FOR THE CURRICULUM, EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

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