

Section A—Core Subjects

English Language and Literature

The study of English is an essential and therefore compulsory part of the education of every student. Not only is competence in English vitally important as a qualification for future careers and pathways, but it is a basic necessity of everyday life.

The course:

All students from September 2016 will be taking the reformed English Language and Literature GCSEs which means that students will be given an increased amount of unseen texts to read in their exams, including texts written before the twentieth century. In addition, the courses are only assessed by examinations so there is not any coursework. This presents students with new challenges: being word-rich and having a good vocabulary, as well as being well-read, are hugely important. It will really help students to be looking up new words and their definitions each week, as well as reading a variety of texts very regularly at home.

English Language – the new requirements

- Spoken language (similar to what is currently called speaking and listening) will be compulsory, but assessed and certificated separately.
- 20% of the marks must be awarded for spelling, punctuation, grammar and sentence structure.
- Students must respond to texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, with at least two unseen texts and a comparative element.

English Literature – the new requirements

- Students must respond to whole texts including a Shakespeare play and a 19th century novel, plus a selection of post 1789 poetry including 'representative Romantic poetry'.
- Students must also respond to either a modern prose or a modern drama text; both must be by a British writer.
- Students must respond to at least two unseen texts and compare them.
- Exams will be 'closed book' (i.e. students will have to memorise quotes and will not be allowed copies of the texts in the exam hall).

Assessment

Spoken language certified separately.