

**GCSE English Language and English Literature courses at Abbey Park School  
Exam Board: OCR**

This information applies for BOTH English courses.

**Structure of the course:**

Both GCSE English courses are assessed on a 9-1 scale. There is only one tier of entry. The courses are assessed by terminal examination at the end of Year 11. Set texts are NOT allowed to be taken into English Literature examinations. Students take four, 2-hour papers in total.

**English Language:**

Paper 1 – Communicating Information and Ideas

Paper 2 – Exploring Effects and Impact

**English Literature:**

Paper 1 – Exploring Modern and Literary Heritage texts

Paper 2 – Exploring Poetry and Shakespeare

**Students should all own their own**

**copies of the following texts:** *An Inspector Calls; The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde; The Merchant of Venice.* Copies of the poetry anthology are provided free of charge.

**How to prepare:**

Students can:

- Attend any interventions they have been invited to regularly and engage with these sessions
- Re-read their texts and accompanying annotations, catching up on any missed notes as needed from peers or staff
- Re-read the key sections of their Literature texts, as identified in class
- Read examples of non-fiction such as news articles, biographies, blogs, speeches.
- Fill in the workbooks that accompanied the revision guides you may have purchased
- Complete the revision pages or attempt example questions available in our department revision guide on the student VLE.

You can:

- Encourage attendance to intervention
- Quiz students about the plot, main themes, characters and key quotes from their texts – if they can explain it clearly to you, it'll help them really understand the text.
- Watch film/tv versions of the texts with students and discuss, or perhaps read the key extracts yourself.
- Help students create and stick to a revision timetable.

**Useful resources:**

Revision guides – these were sold through the school last year and will be available again this year. In the bundle there were workbooks as well with activities to complete. The revision guides we recommend are the CGP ones.

Pupil VLE – from the school website students can access this, under the English area there the revision guides we produced last year and other revision resources. *Note: we will be providing students with revision guides again this year, but after the mocks so that if we need to adapt them or include anything new to support our cohort this year then we can do.*

Online: websites such as BBC Bitesize offer useful commentaries, videos and notes. There are also a lot of YouTube videos (for example those by Mr Bruff) that can be very informative for revision.

**Other info:**

This year we will continue our 'Exam Friday' initiative, where every Friday the whole of Year 11 will be completing either an exam style task or shorter quiz in class. The aim of this is to increase students' confidence and stamina with the longer written responses expected in English. In the following lesson students will get their feedback and work with staff to improve their writing style and answers.

**KEY DATES**

**Mock Exams:**

**English Language Paper 01 – The 'non-fiction' paper – 22<sup>nd</sup> November**

**English Literature Paper 02 – Shakespeare and Poetry – 16<sup>th</sup> November**

*In February students will complete a mock exam for the other paper of each course.*

**The purpose of mock examinations in all subjects is to:**

- Enable pupils to experience the pressure and time constraints of public examinations
- To gain awareness of individual pupil's current working grade
- To identify areas which require consolidation and revision
- To allow teachers to plan future lessons and revision sessions

### GCSE English Language Course Outline

<u>Name of examination</u>	<u>Content of examination</u>
<p><b><u>Communicating information and ideas (01)</u></b></p> <p>80 marks</p> <p>2 hour written exam (end of year 11)</p> <p>50% of total GCSE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section A – Reading</u></b></p> <p>Read two non-fiction texts: one 19<sup>th</sup> century non-fiction text and one 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> century text. Then answer 4 questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Identify</b> key information and ideas</li> <li>2. <b>Compare</b> information from the two texts</li> <li>3. <b>Analyse</b> language and structure</li> <li>4. <b>Compare</b> and <b>evaluate</b> how texts present ideas</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section B – Writing</u></b></p> <p>Choose one task from a choice of two. Write one piece of non-fiction (letter, speech, article, discussion, blog etc).</p>
<p><b><u>Exploring effects and impact (02)</u></b></p> <p>80 marks</p> <p>2 hour written exam (end of year 11)</p> <p>50% of total GCSE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section A – Reading</u></b></p> <p>Read two fiction texts: one 20<sup>th</sup> and one 21<sup>st</sup> century text. Then answer 4 questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Identify</b> key information and ideas</li> <li>2. <b>Analyse</b> language and structure from one text</li> <li>3. <b>Analyse</b> language and structure from the other text</li> <li>4. <b>Compare</b> and <b>evaluate</b> how texts present ideas</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section B – Writing</u></b></p> <p>Choose one task from a choice of two. Write one piece of creative writing (narrative, autobiographical etc).</p>

### GCSE English Literature Course Outline

<u>Name of examination</u>	<u>Content of examination</u>
<p><b><u>Exploring modern and literary heritage texts (01)</u></b></p> <p>80 marks</p> <p>2 hour written exam (end of year 11)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section A – Modern prose or drama</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>AN INSPECTOR CALLS</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Compare</b> an extract from the studied text to an unseen drama text.</li> <li>b) <b>Analyse</b> another moment from the text – you choose the moment.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section B – 19<sup>th</sup> Century Prose</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE</i></p> <p>Answer one question from a choice of two. One will be based on a given extract; the other will be a general discussion task.</p>
<p><b><u>Exploring poetry and Shakespeare (02)</u></b></p> <p>80 marks</p> <p>45-minute written exam (end of year 11)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section A – Poetry</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CONFLICT POETRY</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Compare</b> a given poem from the collection with an unseen poem.</li> <li>b) <b>Analyse</b> another poem from the collection – you choose which one to discuss.</li> </ol> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Section B – Shakespeare</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>THE MERCHANT OF VENICE</i></p> <p>Answer one question from a choice of two. One will be based on a given extract; the other will be a general discussion task.</p>

