



St Gregory the Great Catholic School – Secondary Phase

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (KS4)

Examination Board: AQA GCSE English Language:



Course Description:

The course requires students to work towards 2 examinations: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (Paper 1) and Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (Paper 2). Both papers contain 2 sections: in Section A students respond to 1-2 texts and in Section B students complete a writing task. Throughout the course, students will cover every aspects of the exam and have many opportunities to undertake exam style tasks. Independent study will involve self-quizzing and recall tasks. This will enable students to secure their knowledge.

Assessment:

This qualification is assessed through two exam papers, each of which is worth 50% of the marks for the GCSE. Each exam is 1 hour 45 Minutes long. Both exams assess the full range of skills learnt throughout the course.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. This paper assesses understanding of fiction texts from the 20th or 21st Century. Students will also be asked to write a story or a description prompted by an image or written instruction.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. This paper assesses understanding of two non-fiction texts, one from the 19th Century and one from the 20th/21st Century. Students will also be asked to write a response to a specific question giving their viewpoint on a particular issue.

Speaking & Listening: Every student delivers a short presentation on a topic of their choice. This is a compulsory part of the course and is required by every exam board.

Why Study English Language ?

All students in KS4 are required to study *both* Language and Literature. The Language course provides students with an ability to view written texts in a critical and analytical way, considering how language is used to create meaning. An ability to use language clearly, creatively and persuasively, as well as understanding the effect of language, is an essential skill for many different career paths and further study in almost any discipline. A pass grade in English Language is a minimum requirement for most pathways after Y11.

Further information on GCSE English Language can be obtained from Ms McCabe - Head of English