

GCSE - ENGLISH

"A book is a device to ignite the imagination."

Year 10 are taught Literature and Language separately in order to prepare them to sit the AQA GCSE summative exams at the end of Year 11. The units have been aligned carefully so that the two strands complement each other – allowing for deeper consideration of themes, or consolidation and extension of skills.

After the completion of the specification half way through Year 11, a programme of revision units will be taught by all teachers to ensure our students have the opportunity to revise the whole course in a supported way. Additional revision will, of course, be required in private study time.

YEAR 10 LITERATURE UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT ONE

CORE TEXT: A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Students will read this canonical ghost story, which exemplifies Dickens' ideals of charity and social responsibility. Students will look closely at the way in which Dickens' language choices create and develop character, whilst exploring the ways in which our perceptions of poverty, family and redemption are formed, and have changed since the novel was published. Starting with this text means that students have an opportunity to learn about Victorian social and historical context, which will form a strong foundation for *An Inspector Calls*, a selection of the Power and Conflict poetry, and will aid thorough comprehension of the heritage text aspect of Language Paper 2.

UNIT TWO

CORE TEXT: AN INSPECTOR CALLS

Building on their understanding of Victorian ills and Edwardian vices, students will study a modern playscript – J.B Priestley's mid-century masterpiece. Writer's intent and audience response will come to the fore as key concepts. Teachers use a range of strategies, including performance and film-study, to consider the play as a performance piece as well as exploring and analysing its literary qualities. Students also consolidate and extend their analytical structures so that their writing explicitly meets the assessment objectives set by AQA. Students will use feedback from their analytical writing in unit one to improve their analytical skills, applying them to this challenging text.

UNIT THREE

CORE TEXT: POWER AND CONFLICT POETRY

Students read, analyse and make links between 15 poems, set externally by AQA. The poems explore what creates power, and what can take it away as well as the conflicts – both external and internal – created by an imbalance of power. The anthology is arranged chronologically so that students can also develop their understanding of how political and historical contexts have influenced the way poetic expression has changed over time. Whilst building on previous analytical work, this unit explicitly develops the comparison skills learnt and practiced in earlier years at Catmose College, and in particular, Year 9.

UNIT FOUR

UNSEEN POETRY

Students will be exposed to a range of poems as they learn how to apply their skills of analysis to poems they have not previously studied. They will be taught how to compare two poems, linked by a single theme. Students will grow in confidence and independence as they progress towards forming their own critical readings.

YEAR 10 LANGUAGE UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT ONE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 2: WRITERS' VIEWPOINTS AND PERSPECTIVES

This unit introduces students to the non-fiction based Language Paper 2 questions, building on skills developed through earlier non-fiction units. Students will simultaneously look more explicitly at the way in which the examination questions are structured and marked. Teachers and students will make links between the inequality and exploitation covered in this unit, and the way in which the same theme is presented in 'A Christmas Carol' which is studied at the same time.

UNIT TWO

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPER 1: EXPLORATIONS IN CREATIVE READING AND WRITING

Students will read a range of texts to inform their understanding of this genre, and then use these skills to inform their own creative writing. By developing their awareness of how different writers exploit conventions of genre, as developed by the study of Gothic and Dystopian stories in KS3, students develop a range of creative writing skills. Teachers will also cover the technical accuracy requirements of GCSE writing, using the time in class to address any misconceptions and offer students interesting ways of expressing themselves. This unit includes a range of creative tasks that are directly linked to the skills exemplified in the texts selected.

UNIT THREE

SPOKEN LANGUAGE

Students will study successful speech structures using a range of exemplars from great speeches across time, along with some more contemporary examples. They then apply this knowledge to a topic of their own choosing, using class and prep time to carefully draft, edit and practice an individual speech. This speech is recorded and submitted for the students individual AQA Spoken Language Endorsement.

YEAR 11 LITERATURE UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT ONE

CORE TEXT: MACBETH

Students will explore Shakespeare's play from the perspective of actors and directors, as well as the more traditional literary analysis approach. Using the analytical skills developed through their study of 'An Inspector Calls', 'A Christmas Carol' and the Power and Conflict poems, students will explore Shakespeare's choices carefully - reading the whole text. Teachers will use this opportunity to consolidate ideas about power, tragedy and stagecraft established in earlier study.

UNIT TWO

REVISION UNITS

Having completed the English Literature set texts, students will participate in revising all aspects of both the English Literature and English Language specifications from January to the summer exams. This ensures that students are able to move forward to a greater depth of understanding, applying all that they have learned. Teacher-led analysis of the students' strengths and areas for development informs the lessons on a day to day basis, however they will cover all the core texts taught in Year 10 and 11, as well as regular revisiting of the writing skills needed for success in the students' final exams.

GCSE - ENGLISH

YEAR 11 LANGUAGE UNITS OF STUDY

UNIT ONE

EXPLORATIONS IN CREATIVE READING AND WRITING

Building on the detailed feedback from their Year 10 mock examinations, students study a broad range of fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries, exploring the choices made about language and structure by the writers. Lessons focus on examination style questions, whilst also developing students' own vocabularies so that they can write clearly and coherently about what they have read. The unit pairs reading and writing tasks, so that students have the opportunity to apply the skills they have analysed to their own writing.

UNIT TWO

WRITERS' VIEWPOINTS AND PERSPECTIVES

Building on their understanding of literary non-fiction from Year 10, students will read a range of paired texts, linked to a transactional writing task, to prepare them for their external examinations. Skills taught and consolidated include inference, language analysis and comparison of texts and writer's perspectives. There is a focus on consolidation of fundamental technical accuracy, giving students opportunities to both examine the effect of grammatical choices, as well as applying it to their own writing. Students cover the full range of possible writing tasks for the exam and are taught how to plan and proof-read in exam conditions. Teachers will use their marking and feedback to give students time and opportunity to improve their writing across the unit.

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WIDER READING

ALL YEARS

Alongside each unit of study there is a wider reading list that comprises a range of fiction and non-fiction texts selected to encourage and develop a student's understanding of the unit they are currently studying. Where possible, the wider reading lists also includes links to online or free versions of texts, and audio versions that students are able to access without charge.

DEVELOPING VOCABULARY

ALL YEARS

All units of study have an accompanying challenging vocabulary list that teachers use to enhance and expand their students' ability to express themselves clearly and precisely. Teachers will model the use of new vocabulary words in a lesson context and will encourage students to use them too, alongside vocabulary and spelling tests aimed at ensuring students feel confident to use these words in their own speech and writing.

INTERVENTION

Throughout Year 11, students will be selected for additional intervention classes that run in the Electives slot within the College timetable. Our choices are informed by our most recent set of examination data – for example, the Year 10 or Year 11 mock exams. Teachers may also place students in intervention if they feel that additional support is required. These shorter, targeted classes are skills-focused, enabling our students to take the important steps forward that are needed for exam success.