

CURRICULUM SUBJECT: ENGLISH

SUBJECT CONTACT: C JACKSON

“We know what we are, but not what we may be.” William Shakespeare

CURRICULUM INTENT

Why is it important that pupils at Vale of York study English?

Studying English is more than just exploring the depths of literature and language; it's about understanding the human condition, expressing thoughts clearly, and engaging with a world of diverse perspectives. English is the bedrock of communication—be it through spoken word or written text. In our curriculum, we go beyond the traditional boundaries of the subject to explore contemporary issues, historical contexts, and the power of narrative and poetry in shaping our society.

CURRICULUM STATEMENT

At KS3: The Key Stage 3 English curriculum at Vale of York is designed to provide a rich and engaging learning experience that fosters a deep appreciation for language, literature, and communication. Our curriculum is crafted to empower students with the essential skills and knowledge required for effective communication, critical thinking, and a lifelong love of reading and writing. The issues introduced are aimed at creating accountable readers, skilled writers and confident young people able to tackle any new challenges the world throws at them. Students have a core text that they study for a term covering a range of fiction and non-fiction with a variety of writing experiences embedded within.

At KS4: The Key Stage 4 English curriculum at Vale of York follows EDUQAS for English language for Literature GCSE. We are aiming to provide a comprehensive and challenging educational experience for students in Years 10 and 11. This curriculum is designed to prepare students for the GCSE English Language and English Literature examinations, fostering the development of critical thinking, effective communication, and a deep appreciation for literature.

GCSE English Language: The English Language component of the curriculum focuses on developing students' proficiency in key language skills, including reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

GCSE English Literature: The focus of this component is to broaden students' horizons in the wider cultural capital of historical literature and simultaneously discover how the literature of our past has shaped the current landscape students live in.

CURRICULUM SEQUENCE

Curriculum time (2 weeks)	8 hours	8 hours	8 hours
Curriculum framework	National Curriculum	National Curriculum	National Curriculum
Year group	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Core knowledge & understanding covered	<p>Myths and Legends (including: Midas, Odysseus & the Sirens, Daedalus & Icarus, Glaucus & Scylla, Brothers Grimm tales etc.)</p> <p>A Midsummer Night's Dream</p> <p>I Am Malala</p> <p>Dystopian Fiction (including extracts from: The Hunger Games, The Maze Runner, 1984 and Divergent etc.)</p> <p>Dystopian Writing</p> <p>Students have one hour every week on Reading Plus.</p>	<p>Romeo and Juliet</p> <p>Animal Farm</p> <p>Character and voice in poetry (including poetry from various anthologies.)</p> <p>Boy 87</p> <p>Travel writing (including non-fiction texts like blogs, guides, marketing materials etc.)</p> <p>Students have one hour every week on Reading Plus.</p>	<p>I Am Thunder</p> <p>Gothic Fiction (including extracts from: The Woman in Black, Frankenstein, Jekyll and Hyde, Dracula and The Raven.)</p> <p>Gothic Writing</p> <p>Blood Brothers</p> <p>Protest Poetry (including: The Clown Punk, Still I Rise, The Caged Bird etc.)</p> <p>Students have one hour every week on Reading Plus.</p>

Key Stage 4:

	Year 10	Year 11
Curriculum time (2 weeks)	8 hours	8 hours
Curriculum framework	<p>Eduqas English Language</p> <p>Component 1 Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 40% of GCSE <u>Questions</u> Reading (40 marks) (20%) – one fiction text 2 short form questions (2 x 5 marks) 3 longer form questions (3 x 10 marks) Narrative Writing (40 marks) (20%) 1 writing question (with four options to choose from) (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy)</p> <p>Component 2 Written exam: 2 hours 80 marks 60% of GCSE <u>Questions</u> Reading (40 marks) (30%) – two linked non-fiction texts (19th and 21st century) 3 short form question (2 x 3 1x4 marks) 3 longer form questions (3 x 10 marks) Transactional Writing (40 marks) (30%) 2 transactional writing questions (12 marks for content, 8 marks for technical accuracy)</p> <p>Eduqas English Literature</p>	

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and Poetry

What's assessed

- *Shakespeare - Macbeth*
- *Poetry Anthology*

How it's assessed

- *written exam: 2 hours*
- *80 marks*
- *40% of GCSE*

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer two questions on Macbeth. The first is an extract based question where the extract will be provided in the exam. The second is a whole play question.

Section B Poetry: students will answer two questions on the poetry anthology. The first is a question on the named poem which is provided. The second question is a comparison question to a poem of their choice.

Paper 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry

What's assessed

- *Post 1914 Prose/Drama - An Inspector Calls*
- *19th Century Prose - A Christmas Carol*
- *Unseen poetry*

How it's assessed

- *written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes*
- *120 marks*
- *60% of GCSE*

Section A Post 1914 Prose/Drama: students will answer one question on An Inspector Calls. There is an extract but the question is whole text based.

Section B 19th Century Prose: students will answer one question on A Christmas Carol. There is an extract but the question is whole text based.

Section C Unseen Poetry: students will answer two questions on two unseen poems. The first question is on the first unseen poem. The second is a comparison question to a second provided unseen poem.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

	Resources to support your child	Relevance - How it helps
Key Stage 3	<i>Google Classroom will have all lessons provided for each hour taught in school.</i>	<i>If your child misses any lessons or needs clarity the information will be there to fill gaps in knowledge independently.</i>
Exam courses	<i>EDUQAS website Mr Bruff - Youtube Sparknotes GCSE Bitesize</i>	<i>All of these are excellent and free resources to support your child's learning and specifically help while revising previously taught content.</i>

WIDER INTEREST

At Vale of York, we believe that GCSE English is not just a subject but a gateway to exploring a myriad of wider interests and skills that benefit our students both academically and personally. Our curriculum is designed to foster a love for reading, encourage creative expression, and develop critical thinking skills. Through literature, students travel across times and cultures, gaining insights into diverse human experiences and perspectives. Creative writing assignments provide a platform for self-expression and innovation, allowing students to experiment with their voice and storytelling techniques.

Useful links and resources

www.sparknotes.com/

www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4

GCSE English Language | Eduqas

https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/english-literature-gcse/#tab_keydocuments