

English at Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

English Literature:

The AQA specification offers a variety of texts which are equally accessible for pupils of all abilities:

- “**An Inspector Calls**” remains key in conversations we can have with our pupils about class and social responsibility.
- “**Macbeth**” is a perennial favourite choice of Shakespeare text. Incorporating as it does the intriguing themes of power, betrayal and the supernatural, we feel that “Macbeth” continues to engage and boost the confidence of students.
- “**A Christmas Carol**” is a challenging novel, both in terms of its context and rich language. Our approach and the resources we have created help students with developing a sufficiently detailed understanding of this text.
- AQA offer three choices of **Poetry Anthology** (Love and Relationships, Power and Conflict and Worlds and Lives). All three are on offer for study at Gordano and all give a different perspective on how humans interact with universal experiences and emotions.
- Finally, the **Unseen Poetry** section of the exam asks students to interpret and analyse a poem which will be new to them on the day. In lessons we will equip them with the skills needed to succeed in this.
- This is assessed in two final exams.

English Language:

- The use of written fiction and non-fiction extracts to inspire writing tasks is something really helps improve pupils’ writing; after all, to be a great writer you must be a great reader.
- Here pupils will learn to analyse writers’ use of language, structure, character etc. and therefore, to explore the intended purpose of the piece of writing, be it an article, letter, diary entry or novel.
- Pupils will then make use of such techniques in their own creative writing where they will learn how to plan, craft and edit effective fiction and non-fiction writing themselves.
- This is assessed in two final exams.
- There is a third non-examined assessment which requires students to plan, write and perform a short speech on a topic of their choice. This will result in a grading of Pass, Merit or Distinction for this component alone.

English at Key Stage 4 Curriculum Overview

English Literature	Term 1-2	Term 3-4	Terms 5-6
Year 10	An Inspector Calls	Macbeth	Poetry Anthology
Year 11	A Christmas Carol	Poetry Anthology and Unseen Poetry	Revision

Literature assessments: often long form 30-mark essays. Knowledge tests also provided for each set text to support recall.

English Language	Term 1-2	Term 3-4	Terms 5-6
Year 10 (Language Paper 1)	Spoken Language Assessment and Language Analysis skills	Structural analysis and evaluation skills	Creative writing and mock revision
Year 11 (Language Paper 2)	Non-fiction creative writing	Comparing and analysing non-fiction texts	Revision

Language assessments: questions range from 4-40 marks depending on the section of the paper being assessed. Knowledge tests also provided for each skill to support recall.