



Woodkirk Academy

English Language and Literature

KS3/KS4/AS/A Level

How we identify UA

A secondary school student is considered to be Upper Ability (**UA**) if the average level he/she achieved in his/her Key Stage 2 English and Mathematics SATs is Level 5 or above. Year 7 students who completed the new Key Stage 2 exams in 2016 have been identified using an equivalent measure.

How we Identify MAA in English

English is a varied subject with a wide range of criteria. Generally speaking, students identified as more academically able (**MAA**) will show flair, creativity and technical skill in one or more of the three main disciplines: Speaking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

Skills

Speaking and Listening

- Enthusiastically participate in discussions and debates, expressing opinions and ideas with precision and clarity, shaping language to suit the needs of the audience.
- Articulate points of view sensitively and effectively.
- Encourage others sensitively to express their views.
- Listen with discrimination and be able to skilfully and succinctly summarise points and main ideas
- Use standard English assuredly and impressively.
- An engaging and confident speaker.

Reading

- Independently read challenging literary texts, with avid enthusiasm.
- Sustain concentration and interest when reading challenging texts that are unfamiliar.
- Engage with literary texts, analytically and perceptively showing maturity and originality of response.
- Have detailed and accurate knowledge of literary texts and be able to use quotations with economy and insight.

Writing

- Use different sentence types with ease, accuracy and for effect.
- Successfully and independently use the conventions of a range of different fiction and non-fiction genres when creating texts.
- Confidently, imaginatively and with flair use a wide and sophisticated vocabulary.

- Demonstrate control and flair when using the full range of punctuation.
- Spell with accuracy a wide range of low and high frequency words, even if they are unfamiliar.
- Create original and thought provoking writing.

Challenges for UA in English and how to overcome these:

Challenge	Overcome
Writing sufficient details in extended writing pieces to enable student to access higher mark levels.	See exemplar material of what a 7-9 grade response looks like. See your English teacher for this.
Creating a critical and conceptualised response to literature and non-fiction texts.	Decide on an 'angle' or main argument for the question and use this to inform the rest of the essay. This will be covered in your English lessons and staff are available to guide you.
Learning in a style that will aid you in the linear exams.	Use a wide range of revision techniques and train your memory to remember the quotations you need for the closed book exams.
Including the correct and precise and terminology required by the higher levels.	Create a glossary of the new terms you come across in class and through independent work and ensure you can spell them, define them and use them in your analyses, discussing their effects.
Using the full range of writing techniques required by the higher levels.	Ensure you can use the full range of sentence types, punctuation and ARFORESTIA plus more complicated techniques like pathetic fallacy and personification. Ensure that you can manipulate the structure of your writing for effect. Work on having an extensive and sophisticated vocabulary and make sure you can spell that vocabulary!

How can Parents help?

- Wider reading: newspapers, non-fiction and a wide range of fiction are essential to developing skills. Read the same things and discuss them together.
- Encourage your son/daughter to be a writer: enter writing competitions, contribute articles to newspapers and magazines, or keep journals.
- Visit the theatre, libraries, concerts, galleries and museums: all offer opportunities to stimulate and inspire and to provide a diverse range of cultural experiences.
- Enrichment opportunities at Woodkirk: after school revision, annual festivals such as Images of War Day and the Shakespeare festival, volunteering as a reading buddy or in the LRC, visiting the theatre and many other opportunities.

Please use the following websites to help support your son/daughter:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>

<https://www.iggy.net>

<http://www.englishbiz.co.uk/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/subjects/z3kw2hv>

<https://itunes.apple.com/gb/app/english-language-gcse-revision/id861891074?mt=8>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/mrbruff>

<http://www.themix.org.uk/work-and-study/study-and-exam-tips/revision-tips-1238.html?gclid=ClzJgNrm7tECFeG37QodLhgGhw>