

Herschel Grammar School

English GCSE Literature and Language Curriculum Overview 2025/26

Curriculum Intent

Our vision in the English Department is to enable personal growth and to provide every student with pathways to success. Our aim is to ensure that students can write clearly and accurately as well as to enthuse students so that they become lifelong learners in the process.

Curriculum Impact

We hope to equip our students with the skills and the confidence to speak articulately; to read for pleasure and analytically and to write according to purpose. Our aspiration is that students will be able to respond to a range of challenging and thought-provoking fiction and non-fiction texts from a diverse range of authors. We hope that they will embrace their multicultural identity through studying diverse voices from across the globe and their national identity through celebrating British texts from the literary heritage. In doing so students will explore context and how it shapes meaning. Ultimately, they will grasp the power that lies in the spoken and written word and appreciate that literature can open our minds. We also aim to provide students with a sense of consistency and familiarity regarding external exam requirements. Our hope for our students is that they become critical thinkers who are thoughtful, expressive and tolerant.

Through education, we have the privilege of engaging directly with children and young people who:

- are passionate about the natural world
- want to do their best to protect it
- can influence their wider communities

Throughout this document, whenever the following icon is used , it indicates that the teaching and learning is linked to one or more of the following:

- nature
- the causes and impacts of climate change
- careers in the green economy
- the importance of sustainability

Year group	10
Rationale for sequencing	Aim: to complete all of paper 1 material for language and literature by the end of year 10. We have tried to complete one literature component followed by a language component. Pupils respond well to Macbeth – therefore beginning with this text is engaging and interesting to pupils. Conducting the spoken language unit in year 10 enlivens the lessons post Y10 exams in the summer term.
Term 1	
Half term	Half term
Macbeth paper 1. Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes Literature; AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.	Macbeth paper 1. Section A Shakespeare: Complete teaching of Macbeth over 1 st 3 weeks Explorations in creative reading Paper 1 section A Reading literature: Focus- narrative and description to capture interest of the reader. Use 20 th and 21 st century texts. Language AO1 - A04
Term 2	
Half term	Half term
Explorations in creative writing: Paper 1 section B. Teach writing skills. Pupils to create own pieces inspired by the topics in section A. Focus on audience, purpose and form. Pupils should demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image. Language AO5 – A06 Begin J and H (See next half-term.)	C19th Texts (Jekyll and Hyde) paper 1 Section B Literature With the Shakespeare = 40% students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole. Literature: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.
Term 3	
Half term	Half Term
Mock paper- Paper 1 Language and Literature Paper 1. After exam, Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives. Paper 2 section A: Spoken Language Assessment. Teach fiction and literary non-fiction texts. Reading responses for section A. 1 short form question. 2 longer form questions. 1 extended question. Language AO1 - A04	Paper 2 section B: Teach writing to express a viewpoint for section B. Extended writing. Language AO7 - A09
Key Assessment Plans:	
Term 1	Macbeth question/Macbeth Section A Paper 1
Term 2	Descriptive/creative/Jekyll and Hyde question

Term 3	Spoken Language/Paper 2 section A
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Year group	11
Rationale for sequencing	Begin focus on paper 2 Literature content. Students are enthused by 'An Inspector Calls' and therefore a good place to commence. Completing the curriculum in time for mock examinations in December and focusing on skills needed for language and literature.

Term 1	
Half term	Half term
Modern Texts: Paper 2 Literature written exam: An Inspector Calls - explore plot, characterisation, events and settings - critical reading: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text - evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary - Produce clear and coherent essay responses to whole texts. Literature: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.	Teach 4 poems from Power and Conflict. Bayonet Charge, Charge of the Light Brigade, Exposure and Prelude. - Explore literal and implied meanings - Explore context - Read texts critically, identifying the theme, point of view and tone - Give an informed personal response that is analytical and evaluates the text - Compare texts Revision for mock: English Language paper 2. LANG (AO1-A06) Revision An Inspector Calls Essay practice. Literature: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.
Term 2	
Half term	Half term
Complete anthology poems: Paper 2 Literature Unseen Poetry: Paper 2 Literature, Study a wide range of poetry - develop ability to closely analyse unseen poems. - analyse and compare key features such as their content, theme, structure and use of language Literature: (AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4)	Revision and practice exam skills. English Language Paper 1 LANG (AO1-A06) English Literature Paper 1. Literature: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.
Term 3	
Half term	Half Term
Revision and exam practice. English Language Paper 2 LANG (AO1-A06) English Literature Paper 2. Literature: AO1, AO2, AO3, AO4.	Final Revision/study leave.

Key Assessment Plans:	
Term 1	An Inspector Calls Essay/Mock all paper 2 Lit/Lang
Term 2	Anthology poetry essay/English Lang paper 1, B
Term 3	Unseen poetry/English Language paper 2, B