

English

GCSE – Code: 8700 / 8702 – Exam Board: AQA



Saint Joseph's
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Assessment:

The English Language and Literature courses will run across two years with final assessment at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework element; the only 'early' assessed piece is the Spoken Language element.

- **English Language** has two exam papers which will be taken in the summer of 2027 (Year 11).
- **English Literature** also has two exams papers which will be taken in the summer of 2027 (Year 11).

Key Information:

The **GCSE English Language** course involves an exciting and wide range of content, including the reading and writing of both fiction and non-fiction texts. Through discussion and detailed analysis, you will explore and compare how writers harness the power of the written word to create meaning and entertain, inform or persuade their readers or audience.

The course also involves a Spoken Language component which does not feed into the final grade, but it is a key skill which will help pupils in the future with their professional communication.

The **GCSE English Literature** course involves an in-depth study of both classic and modern texts. Pupils will study a Shakespeare text (Macbeth), a 19th Century Novel (A Christmas Carol), a 20th Century drama (An Inspector Calls), an anthology collection of poetry focusing on Power and Conflict, and a wider range of poetry to prepare for the unseen poetry element of the exam. Pupils will not have copies of the texts in their exams, so they will develop an excellent and comprehensive

knowledge of the texts to support them which will be built through meticulous and rigorous study. Alongside their knowledge of the individual texts, students will develop an awareness and appreciation of the role literature has played throughout history in reflecting and providing commentary on society.

Career Pathways:

Achieving a grade 4 is considered the expectation for all pupils when they leave school at 16. This enables access to a wide variety of post-16 courses and apprenticeships. Students without a Grade 4 at that point must continue studying English until they achieve this standard.

GCSE English Language at grade 5 or above will be a minimum requirement for many employers or college courses, regardless of whether you intend to study English or not.

GCSE English Literature prepares you equally well for A-Level English Language or Literature and has links with subjects such as Drama, Film & Media Studies, Psychology, Sociology or Philosophy. Traditional career paths include journalism, advertising and the media as well as areas such as copywriting and proofreading, teaching and ghost writing, as well as becoming a published author!

For more information, see
the full course specification:

aqa.org.uk/subjects/english

Or scan here:

