THE WORTHGATE SCHOOL
CANTERBURY

COURSE DESCRIPTOR

GCSE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SUBJECT OVERVIEW

English is an essential international language for most businesses and has become the medium of communication in a variety of multicultural contexts globally. It is vital for students becoming adults in a challenging world to be able to be functionally, and analytically able to convey complex ideas and responses in a range of different contexts. Colloquial and formal language would ensure a level of creative and operative independence in any field into which they may be working in the future. It is therefore necessary for each student to learn to read, write and speak English competently.

PRIOR LEARNING REQUIRED

The GCSE Language Course is a first language course and so it is important that each student has achieved the equivalent of Year 9 first language standard to engage in the learning. It is a two-year course, and each student needs to complete the Year 10 course, before entering the GCSE year 11. In year 10, the details of Paper 1 are explored: in Year 11 paper 2 is taught. Paper 1 is revised in the latter part of year 2 as a revision of the skills required and then examined with Paper 2 in the final examination.

EXAM BOARD

AQA

COURSE CONTENT

Year 1	Year 2
MODULE 1 (Paper 1) QUESTION 1: Explicit Facts QUESTION 2: Analysis of language skills: Introduction QUESTION 3: Structure analysis skills QUESTION 4: Analysis of full text: language and structure QUESTION 5: Essay: Descriptive/ Narrative.	**MODULE 2 (Paper 2)** QUESTION 1: Implicit facts QUESTION 2: Summary skills: Comparative QUESTION 3: Full text: language analysis QUESTION 4: Two full texts: comparative language analysis QUESTION 5: Text type: audience: discursive/ argument.

ASSESSMENT

A variety of assessment styles are regularly set throughout the year.

- Formal summative assessments occur each half term.
- Formative assessments: Individual formative assessments are continuous with submitted class and homework.
- Dynamic assessment is ongoing: an evaluation method used to identify an individual's skills as well as their learning potential.
- Ipsative assessments are ongoing: directly measuring value added progress specifically.

The assessments take various forms:

- Teacher verbal comments and evaluation
- Teacher formal written evaluation

- Peer comments and evaluation
- Self-evaluation.

There is a mock examination in November to assess the degree of learning still required to achieve target grades in the subject.
To progress to year 2 of the GCSE course, a student needs to have passed the Year 10 end of year examination.

Paper	Length of paper	Weighting
Paper 1: Explorations in reading and writing.	1 hour 45 minutes	Reading: 40 Marks: 25% Writing 40 Marks: 25%
Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and perspectives	1 hour 45 minutes	Reading: 40 Marks:25% Writing: 40 Marks: 25%
Oral Presentation	Non-Exam Assessment 10 minutes on topic of choice. It is graded Pass, Merit or Distinction and reviewed by Cambridge external examiners.	N/A

TEXTBOOKS/REVISION GUIDES

Title	ISBN	Author

AQA GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE: Assessment preparation for Paper 1 and Paper 2.	978-0-19-834075-1	Jane Branson and Peter Ellison

Students will be presented with different learning resources in the class, and practice examination papers for trail and for revision.

HIGHER EDUCATION PATHWAYS

This is an essential qualification to have as it will be used when completing UCAS applications. Achieving a grade 4-9 in this course will enable universities to have a clear understanding of students' English language ability, before they complete the English language exam required for university progression. GCSE English Language is an essential subject for all students who wish to study at a university where English is the main teaching language and/or enter careers which require English as a first language.

GCSE English Language will enhance skills in identification, analysis of language and interpretation of the written and spoken word, which are highly valued by universities and employers.

COMPLEMENTARY SUBJECTS OF STUDY

GCSE English is popular with students who wish to study any pathway at university as it is the foundation of all study in the UK. It facilitates every career in terms of logical, critical thinking: expressed through English especially in Humanities, Languages, Law, Medicine and Business.

CURRICULUM DIRECTOR

Ms. Jemma Jones