

GCSE English

Examination Board: OCR
Specification No: J355 and J360

Why study GCSE English?

Every student at The Windsor Boys' School will study both GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language. The GCSE English courses will help you to develop your literacy skills and, whatever you end up doing after you leave school, if you can achieve an A*-C grade for GCSE English it will end up being one of your most important qualifications!

What will I learn?

Good written and spoken English skills will be vital to you, whatever your post-16 plans. Over the two years of GCSE English study you will study a range of literary texts, including Shakespeare, poetry and novels. You will also study non-fiction texts and media texts (websites, newspapers, adverts, etc.) and learn about how writers adapt and change their writing forms and styles according to audience, task and purpose. In addition, you will practise and refine your speaking and listening skills, as well as learning about the differences between written and spoken language.

How is GCSE English assessed?

Assessment is by a series of exam papers at the end of the course. These test both your Reading and Writing skills, as well as your knowledge of the texts that you have studied for GCSE English Literature.

Where will GCSE English lead?

Course progression	Career opportunities
Two B grades at GCSE in English Language and English Literature will qualify students for a place on the 'A' Level English Literature course. A grade C in English is also a minimum requirement for most 'A' Level courses and many college courses.	You need English GCSE (grade A*-C) to get into university, whatever course you are applying for! You will also need it for most apprenticeships and, for those students looking to leave school and go straight into the work place, be warned: most employers will expect you to have at least a grade C in English!

What do students say about GCSE English?

"The lessons are fun and the skills we learn in English lessons will be useful, not just to help us pass the GCSE exams, but in life in general!"

"Long after we have left school we will still be reading, writing, speaking and listening, even if we might never read Shakespeare ever again!"

"I was watching 'Pointless' with my family the other day, and I managed to get a 'pointless' answer, thanks to something I learnt in one of my English lessons! My teacher told me that English would be useful, and they were right!"