GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

Course Content:

At GCSE level students will continue to learn about many aspects of reading, writing and spoken language. The GCSE English Language (AQA) course covers various units, including explorations in creative reading and writing, and writers' views and perspectives. Students will study literary fiction, and also non-fiction and literary non-fiction. GCSE English Literature (also AQA) incorporates the study of Shakespeare and the 19th century novel, as well as modern texts (prose and drama) and poetry.

Skills needed and developed:

In reading work, students' ability to understand a variety of texts is challenged. These courses require them to develop their own interpretations and consider how best to express their ideas in writing. Vital writing skills are also developed. Students further develop their ability to write effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, and in several different forms: descriptive and narrative writing, and writing to present a point of view. In spoken language, everyone learns how to present well as an individual, and make their talk interesting and engaging.

Assessment Methods:

Both GCSE English courses starting in September 2017 will be assessed by terminal examination (Literature in May 2018 and Language in June 2019).

Students will undertake ongoing assessments, practice papers and mock exams in order to support their progress over time. There is no coursework/controlled assessment component.

The exams are now un-tiered, with no foundation/higher distinction. All exams are 'closed-book'.

Two exams for Language totalling 3 ½ hours and two for Literature totalling 4 hours.

Qualification gained at completion of the course:

GCSE English Language and English Literature, two separate grades from 9 to 1.

Possible Pathways and Careers:

Many St. Antony's students go on to study English at A' Level, but it complements other/new subjects well, including: History, Theology, Sociology, Psychology, and Health and Social Care.

Careers specific to this subject include:

Professional writing, Media (journalism, radio/television broadcasting, web), Teaching, Social work, Police, Law, Advertising/Marketing/Public Relations/Sales, Customer service, Publishing…

In fact, anything where verbal or written communication is key!