

English Language and English Literature GCSE

English and Maths Information evening

English Language and English Literature

- **2 Separate GCSEs – No tiers.**
- **AQA exam board**
- **English Language**
 - Divided into 2 areas – Reading and Writing. 50% weighting on each.
 - 2 Papers – both components are assessed in each.
- **English Literature**
 - 4 texts ‘Romeo and Juliet’ and ‘A Christmas Carol’ : (Paper 1)
 - ‘An Inspector Calls’ and Poetry (Paper 2)

English at the Howard

- 4 English groups, three broad ability bands.
- All students follow the same course and sit the same exam.
- Course delivery and level of independence may differ according to the set.
- **All** grades are open to all students, regardless of set.
- Summer 2026 English Language figures: 83% 9-4.
- Summer 2026 English Literature figures: 86% 9-4.
- In 2026, of the 107 students in the lowest sets 70% achieved 4+ in English Language.

Grade	Number of students
8	1
7	3
6	20
5	21
4	30
3	26
2	4
1	2

The importance of a 4 in English Language

- Minimum requirement of some Level 3 courses at both college and in schools including, at The Howard, BTec Business and BTec Travel and Tourism.
- Minimum requirement for most degree courses at University
- Minimum requirement for a lot of employers
- Students not achieving a 4 will re-sit post-16.

Reasons to aim high in English

- All students nationally sit English Language and Literature GCSEs.
- They are, therefore, a comparative factor between students.
- Many A level courses require at least a 5 or 6 in English
- Entry levels to colleges such as Godalming and Reigate tend to be higher than the Howard

Howard Requirements in English

Subject	English Language	English Literature	Other
Economics	6		
English Literature	5	And 6	
Government and Politics	6	Or 6	Or 6 in history or Geography
Psychology	6		And Maths
Business Studies	5		If BS not taken at GCSE
Dance	5		If dance was taken at 5+
English Language	5	And 5	
Media	5	Or 5	Or Media 5
PE	5		and PE 6+ and Science 5+
Sociology	5	And 5	
Theatre Studies	5	Or 5	Or Drama 5
Business BTec	4	Or 4	
BTec Travel	4	Or 4	

University Applications

- Students wishing to study Medicine or Dentistry and will need at least a 6 in English Language GCSE and Maths for the vast majority of Universities.
- This is also the case for some Veterinary Science courses.

Other examples:

Business

Leeds University Business School requires a grade 6 or higher in GCSE English Language but will accept a grade 4 if you have a grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

Warwick

The University of Warwick requires applicants to demonstrate their ability to understand and express themselves in English, and the level of competence required depends on the degree.

Bristol

The University of Bristol requires a grade 6 or higher in GCSE English to meet their higher literacy profile requirement.

What does an English Language paper look like?

- Very different to what our generation's English exam looked like!

Reading Skills and Key Vocabulary

- Information Retrieval
- Analyse
- Evaluate
- Compare

Paper 1: Fiction and imaginative writing

1 hour 45 mins

15 mins reading time

45 mins each on reading and writing

Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

1 hour 45 mins

15 mins reading time

45 mins each on reading and writing

Spoken Language Endorsement

- A compulsory part of the GCSE Language
- Grade reported separately.
- Presentation with Q & A on a subject of the students' choice.
- Lesson delivery will take place straight after Easter.
- Date of assessment: **Monday 7th June 2027**

What does an English Literature paper look like?

Closed Book exam

AO1: Author's intentions.
Interpretations. Knowledge of
the text.

AO2: Writer's craft. Language
form and structure analysis

AO3: Context

AO4: SPaG

Paper 1: 1 Hour 45 mins

Romeo and Juliet (30 marks)

A Christmas Carol

1 Essay – SPaG counts

Paper 2: 2 Hours 15 minutes

An Inspector Calls 34 marks
(SPaG 4 marks)

Poetry 2 essays

Power and Conflict poetry 30
marks

Unseen. 32 Marks

Programme of Study

Autumn 1: *A Christmas Carol*

Autumn 2: Language Paper 2

Spring 1: *Romeo and Juliet*

Spring 2: *Romeo and Juliet* and Language Paper 1

Summer 1: Intro to Spoken Language, Language Paper 1, *Poetry Anthology (Power and Conflict)*

Summer 2: Revision for exams (Paper 2 Language. Paper 1 Literature), *Poetry Anthology*

Year 11 Autumn 1: *An Inspector Calls*.

Top Tips

Language

- Focus on written accuracy in ALL subjects, not just English, including note taking.
- Revise the different requirements for the different question types.
- Read – not necessarily just fiction.

Literature

- Read and re-read the texts several times before the exams. There are audio books available for *A Christmas Carol* and *An Inspector Calls*.
- Learn quotations as you go along.
- Understand the context of the different texts.

Thank you for listening.

ANY
QUESTIONS

