



# Harmonize Academy

## Subject Overview

### English Language



This guide gives an overview of what students will study in Year 9 English Language. It shows how each unit builds skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and how these prepare students for success in Year 10 and beyond.

Year 10 English Language focuses on preparing students for the NCFE Functional Skills Level 2 qualification. This course helps students develop practical communication skills in reading, writing, and speaking & listening, ready for both real-world situations and further study. During the summer term, year 10 students will transition on to Eduqas/WJEC GCSE course.

KS4 Year 11 English Language prepares students for their final WJEC GCSE exams. They will develop key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The year focuses on practising exam techniques, building confidence, and preparing for future study or career pathways.

## How do we deliver the English Language curriculum?

### Year 9 English Language – Student & Parent Guide

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This guide gives an overview of what students will study in Year 9 English. It shows how each unit builds skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening, and how these prepare students for success in Year 10 and beyond.

#### Autumn Term

##### Poetry and Ballads

Students will explore a range of poems and ballads. They will:

- Develop skills in understanding and interpreting poetry.
- Learn how writers use language to create meaning.
- Write their own creative responses.

Assessment: short written tasks showing understanding and creativity.

##### Class Novel or Short Stories

Students will read and discuss a novel, or short stories, such as, 'Billy the Kid' or 'Savage'. They will:

- Explore key characters and events.
- Learn to empathise with characters and support opinions with evidence.
- Complete writing tasks linked to the stories.

Assessment: comprehension and evaluation tasks.

## **Spring Term**

### Non-Fiction and Transactional Writing

Students will study real-world texts like newspapers, magazines, adverts and leaflets. They will:

- Learn how to adapt language for different audiences.
- Practise writing tasks such as letters, articles and leaflets.

Assessment: two pieces of non-fiction writing.

### Creative Writing

Students will write stories and descriptive pieces. They will:

- Use imagination and figurative language.
- Structure their writing clearly.
- Develop ideas and engage the reader.

Assessment: a creative writing piece.

## **Summer Term**

### Drama and Shakespeare

Students will study plays such as '*Our Day Out*', '*Blood Brothers*' or Shakespeare's '*Macbeth*'. They will:

- Take part in role play, debates and discussions.
- Learn how to compare ideas and themes.

Assessment: exam-style comprehension and writing tasks.

## **End-of-Year Assessment**

Students will sit a mock exam covering reading, writing, and analysis skills.

The focus will be on spelling, punctuation, grammar, vocabulary and clear structure.

Ongoing Skills Throughout the Year - Alongside set topics, students will build skills in:

- Speaking and Listening: discussions, debates, interviews, presentations.
- Reading: understanding meaning, comparing texts, evaluating writers' ideas.
- Writing: clear expression, organisation, and accuracy.

## **Pathway to Year 10 and Beyond**

Year 9 is a stepping stone to success in Year 10, where students will prepare for the NCFE Level 2 Functional Skills qualification in English.

How Year 9 helps students get ready:

- Reading – builds skills to understand, summarise and evaluate non-fiction and fiction texts.
- Writing – practises writing for real purposes like reports, letters and articles.
- Speaking & Listening – develops confidence in expressing ideas and working in groups.
- Assessments – prepare students to tackle exam-style questions with accuracy and confidence.

By the end of Year 9, students will be well-prepared to take on the challenges of Year 10, where their skills will be applied to real-life contexts and formal assessments.

## Year 10 English Language – Student & Parent Guide

NCFE Functional Skills Level 2 and transition to WJEC EDUQAS GCSE English Language

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Year 10 English focuses on preparing students for the NCFE Functional Skills Level 2 qualification. This course helps students develop practical communication skills in reading, writing, and speaking & listening, ready for both real-world situations and further study. During the summer term, year 10 students will transition on to Eduqas/WJEC GCSE course.

### Autumn Term Persuasive Writing

- Study persuasive texts (articles, speeches, adverts).
- Write speeches, letters, and presentations.
- Skills: adapting language for audience and purpose, persuasive techniques, clarity of structure.

### War and Conflict (Transactional Writing)

- Explore texts such as *Stone Cold*, *Private Peaceful*, *Carrie's War*.
- Practise writing diaries, letters, reports, and recounts.
- Skills: expressing viewpoints, structuring transactional writing, and using evidence.

### Spring Term Comprehension & Creative Writing

- Guided reading of fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Write short stories and descriptive pieces.
- Skills: inference, analysis, summarising, creative writing techniques.

### Exam Preparation & Revision

- Exam-style comprehension and writing tasks.
- Practice with transactional and narrative writing.
- Skills: comparing texts, inference, planning structured responses.

### Summer Term Transition to GCSE (WJEC EDUQAS)

- Study 19th, 20th, and 21st-century texts.
- Learn to use P.E.E.D (Point, Evidence, Explanation, Development).
- Skills: analysis, evaluation, and comparison of texts.

### *Hard Times* – 19th & 21st Century Texts

- Read extracts from *Dickens* and modern texts.
- Explore themes and contexts across time periods.
- Complete the GCSE Speaking & Listening assessment:
  - Deliver a persuasive speech.
  - Take part in debates, presentations, and discussions.
  - Perform recitations and responses.

### Assessments

- Speaking & Listening – Deliver a persuasive speech and complete a group discussion task.
- Controlled Assessments – Writing tasks (letters, reports, diary entries, creative writing).
- Exam-Style Tasks – Comprehension, analysis, and extended writing.
- NCFE FS Level 2 Exam – End-of-year exam testing reading, writing, and communication skills.  
(Paper One – 60 minutes. Paper Two – 60 minutes)

### Key Skills Developed

- Reading comprehension and analysis.
- Transactional and creative writing.
- Planning, structuring, and presenting arguments.
- Effective speaking and listening in discussions and presentations.
- Technical accuracy: spelling, punctuation, grammar, and vocabulary.

### Pathway to Year 11 and beyond:

Further Study: GCSE English Language (WJEC EDUQAS).

## KS4 Year 11 English Language – Student & Parent Guide

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KS4 English prepares students for their final WJEC GCSE exams. They will develop key skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The year focuses on practising exam techniques, building confidence, and preparing for future study or career pathways.

### Autumn Term

- Transactional Writing – speeches, letters, articles, reviews.
- 19th- and 21st-Century Texts – exploring themes, ideas and how writers use language.
- Speaking & Listening – class debates, presentations and delivering the GCSE speech.

### Spring Term

- Creative & Descriptive Writing – developing narrative and descriptive techniques.
- Comprehension & Analysis – close reading, comparing texts and practising exam-style answers.

### Summer Term

- Exam Skills & Catch-Up – practice papers and revision of key skills.
- Final Revision & Study Leave – focused preparation for the GCSE exams.

### Reading Students will explore:

- Persuasive and non-fiction texts.
- 19th-century and modern extracts.
- Short stories and descriptive passages.
- Articles, reviews and narratives.

### Writing Students will practise:

- Transactional writing (letters, speeches, articles, reviews, recounts).
- Creative and descriptive writing (short stories, descriptive pieces).
- Exam-style responses (comparisons, analysis, evaluations).

### Speaking & Listening Students will:

- Take part in debates and discussions.
- Present ideas in class.
- Deliver a GCSE-level speech on a chosen topic.

### Assessment

- Component 1 – 40% (1 hour and 45 minutes):
  - Section A: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature Reading and comprehension.
  - Section B: Creative Writing.
- Component 2 – 60% (2 hours):
  - Section A: 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Transactional Writing comprehension.
  - Section B: Two transactional writing pieces such as letter, article or speech.

### Future pathways

A strong GCSE in English Language opens the door to many post-16 opportunities:

- Further Study – A-Levels in English Literature, English Language, Media or related subjects.
- Vocational Pathways – college courses, apprenticeships and training programmes where good literacy skills are essential.
- Career Preparation – English is valued in all careers, including law, journalism, teaching, business, marketing and public services.
- Good communication skills in reading, writing and speaking are highly valued by employers, universities and training providers. English is one of the most important qualifications for future success.