KINGSWINFORD ACADEMY
ASPIRE TO EXCELLENCE

Year 11 Achieve Excellence - Parent Support Guide
English Language

Key Exam Information:

Exam Board: AQA

Assessment:

Language Paper 1	**Language Paper 2**
● 1 hour 45 minutes ● 50% weighting of Language GCSE ● 5 questions: 4 reading (1 hour) and 1 writing (45 minutes) ● Reading questions are based on an extract from one piece of fiction. They assess students' ability to retrieve relevant information, analyse language and structure and form critical opinions. ● The writing question is a creative task, based on an image or writing prompt and assesses their ability to write with accuracy, clarity and creativity.	● 1 hour 45 minutes ● 50% weighting of Language GCSE ● 5 questions: 4 reading (1 hour) and 1 writing (45 minutes) ● Reading questions are based on an extract from two pieces of non-fiction. They assess students' ability to retrieve relevant information, analyse language, compare texts and synthesise information. ● The writing question is a task, based on an image or writing prompt and assesses their ability to write with accuracy, clarity and creativity.

Course Overview:

Students will continue to study for their Language exam alongside the Literature content. They will be assessed on their understanding of Paper 1 during the November mock period. This will assess their ability to retrieve relevant information (Q1), analyse language (Q2) and structure (Q3) and form a critical response to a text, analysing how the writer has influenced this interpretation (Q4). In addition to this, students will also be assessed on their ability to write creatively and with accuracy (Q5).

Following the November mock period, students will then do a complete revisiting of Language Paper 2 prior to and after Christmas. Here they will continue to build their skills of information retrieval (Q1), compare and synthesise key information in texts (Q2), analyse language (Q3), compare viewpoints and how these are constructed in texts (Q4) and finally, write to express a viewpoint (Q5). These skills will form part of the February mock examination period and will be revisited again prior to the final summer exams.

Key content/ skills covered:

(What are the key 'things' students should revise - knowledge - and be able to do - skills)

- Language analysis - consideration for how a writer has written a piece of text and the impact of this.
    - Explore the connotations of key words in detail and the impact of these
- Structural analysis - consideration of how a writer has structured a text for a specific purpose
- Comparison of texts (paper 2) - consider how writers create different tones and attitudes within texts
- Creative writing - writing with imagination, using an image as inspiration. Students need to plan their narrative effectively, considering the beginning, middle and end as well as their own structural features. They need to add descriptive detail through sensory and figurative language as well as variety through sentence forms and openers.

- Writing to express a viewpoint - students will be asked to construct an argument on a topical issue. They should plan their argument so that it is clear and consistent and use a range of persuasive devices to strengthen their viewpoint.
- For both writing questions, there are 16 marks available for spelling, punctuation and grammar, therefore, accuracy is of utmost importance.

Dates of key assessments and deadlines:

19/10/26 - 06/11/26 - Year 11 Mock Examinations 1

- English Language Paper 1 - 19th October 2026

08/02/27 - 26/02/27 - Year 11 Mock Examinations 2

- English Language Paper 2 - date TBC

Links to past papers and revision guides:

- Links to past papers - https://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/past-papers/gcse-english-language/
- SNAP Revision Guide (Reading) - https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008784553
- SNAP Revision Guide (Writing) - https://collins.co.uk/products/9780008784577
- Google Classroom - code: 3qshwupo - a wealth of quality assured resources to further support examination practice

Links to revision sites/ resources:

- Google Classroom - code: 3qshwupo - a wealth of quality assured resources to further support examination practice
- Youtube - Mr Salles and Mr Bruff
- Seneca - homework posted weekly

*Please note that the exam boards have encouraged students to avoid overreliance on revision materials on websites such as Tiktok due to the repetitive and unoriginal nature of the responses that they're producing. These are often more detrimental to students' revision than helpful

Point(s) of contact:

- Your child's class teacher in the first instance
- Miss A Jordan (Faculty Director of English) - ajordan@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk