



Northgate School
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Northgate School

Subject summaries 2022/23

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Remember – These are only some of the course that are on offer. If you are interested in studying a different subject which is not listed in this booklet, please talk to the Headteacher or Assistant headteacher.

AQA English Language GCSE Course overview

What will I study?

GCSE English Language will help you develop a range of skills to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods. It will also develop your written communication enabling you to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures. English is an essential subject in the curriculum and will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams.
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long
- The total mark for each exam is 80 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** Creative reading and writing.

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Seneca - <https://www.senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Seneca learning has online tutorials for different areas of the specification. It covers both Language and Literature through short online modules. Seneca is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

- For English language read as much and as widely as you can. This includes newspapers, articles, journals, literature and poetry.

Key texts for literature

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- A Taste of Honey (Shelagh Delaney)
- Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)

Top tips for success in English Language

1. Read as much as you can! Read everything!
2. Practice writing to time as frequently as possible
3. Expand your vocabulary. Try to use as many new words as you can in your writing. Reading more will help you to do this.

AQA English Literature GCSE Course overview

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature is taught in combination with GCSE English Language and encourages a world of creativity. Through studying a variety of texts you will explore the characters, plot and language techniques the authors have used and this will help you to develop your skills of analysis, critical thinking and self expression.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel:

- written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 64 marks - 40% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.

Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry:

- written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes
- 96 marks - 60% of GCSE

Questions

Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Spark notes - <https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/romeojuliet/>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/christmascarol/>

Provides a great summary of the plot and characters to be used in conjunction with the text.

British Library online - <https://www.bl.uk/works/a-taste-of-honey>

Provides a snap shot and context details of a vast range of texts.

Seneca - <https://www.senecalearning.com/en-GB/>

Seneca learning has online tutorials for different areas of the specification. It covers both Language and Literature through short online modules. Seneca is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

- For English literature read extensively This includes newspapers, articles, journals, literature and poetry. The poetry theme we will be looking at is Power and conflict.

Key texts for literature

- A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)
- A Taste of Honey (Shelagh Delaney)
- Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)
- AQA Poetry Anthology

Top tips for success in English Literature

1. Read as much as you can!
2. Practice writing to time as frequently as possible
3. Analyse what you read. Look at the language the author uses and consider the impact it has on you as a reader.

Edexcel (Pearson) Mathematics GCSE

What will I study?

Qualification aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Mathematics are to enable students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems
- reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions
- comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

- The assessments will cover the following content headings:

1 Number

2 Algebra

3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change

4 Geometry and measures

5 Probability

6 Statistics

- Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier).

How will I be assessed?

3 exam papers in the Summer equal weighting (33.33% each)

Paper 1: Non-Calculator, 80 marks, 90 minutes

Paper 2: Calculator, 80 marks, 90 minutes

Paper 3: Calculator, 80 marks, 90 minutes

Topics are split across all 3 papers and are varied each year. Therefore, there are no breakdowns of each paper.

Resources that will support my learning

MathsWatch - <https://vle.mathswatch.co.uk/vle/>

MathsWatch has learning videos, worksheets, tests, and assignments that cover all topics for the both foundation and higher tiers.

DrFrostMaths - <https://www.drfrostmaths.com>

Questions are organised by topic and most will have videos linked for support. You can also attempt past papers online with instant feedback.

If online resources are not for you, CGP revision books are very good and work well with the workbooks.

Top tips for success in Mathematics

1. Practice, practice, practice. The more past papers you do the more familiarity and confidence you have in the exam.
2. Make sure, once you've completed a past paper, you identify about 3 topics to work on before attempting the next past paper. Use your teacher, MathsWatch and/or DrFrostMaths to work on these topics.
3. Familiarise yourself with the calculator and make sure you know how to use it to its fullest in your exam. It can make the calculator papers a little bit easier.
4. Read each question carefully and don't attempt them in the order given. Always find the questions which are easier for you and do them first, then more up in difficulty. Always leave the hardest questions for you till the end.

Science at Northgate School.

Students will follow a pathway appropriate to their previous knowledge and ability, level of engagement and future needs. This might be Combined Science or a combination of the single Sciences.

AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

What will I study?

Biology

- 1. Cell biology
- 2. Organisation
- 3. Infection and response
- 4. Bioenergetics
- 5. Homeostasis and response
- 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
- 7. Ecology

Chemistry

- 8. Atomic structure and the periodic table
- 9. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- 10. Quantitative chemistry
- 11. Chemical changes
- 12. Energy changes
- 13. The rate and extent of chemical change
- 14. Organic chemistry
- 15. Chemical analysis
- 16. Chemistry of the atmosphere
- 17. Using resources

Physics

- 18. Energy
- 19. Electricity
- 20. Particle model of matter
- 21. Atomic structure
- 22. Forces
- 23. Waves
- 24. Magnetism and electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

- GCSE Combined Science Trilogy is a double award. This means you will be awarded two GCSE's.
- You will be assessed through six exams papers, two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics.
- You can choose to sit either the Foundation or Higher Tier Exam
- Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes long
- The total mark for each paper is 70 marks
- Each of the six papers is worth 16.7% of the total mark.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/combined-science-trilogy>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8r997h>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Combined Science Trilogy

1. Do your homework regularly. Make a note of what you are not sure of and ask a classmate or your teacher for help.
2. Revise a little and often. Fifteen minutes of revision each evening will make a huge difference to your final grades.

Science at Northgate School.

Students will follow a pathway appropriate to their previous knowledge and ability, level of engagement and future needs. This might be Combined Science or a combination of the single Sciences.

AQA Biology GCSE

What will I study?

- 1. Cell biology
- 2. Organisation
- 3. Infection and response
- 4. Bioenergetics
- 5. Homeostasis and response
- 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
- 7. Ecology

How will I be assessed?

2 x Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/biology-8461>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zpgcbk7>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Biology

1. Do your homework regularly. Make a note of what you are not sure of and ask a classmate or your teacher for help.
2. Revise a little and often. Fifteen minutes of revision each evening will make a huge difference to your final grades.

Science at Northgate School.

Students will follow a pathway appropriate to their previous knowledge and ability, level of engagement and future needs. This might be Combined Science or a combination of the single Sciences.

AQA Chemistry GCSE

What will I study?

- 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
- 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- 3. Quantitative chemistry
- 4. Chemical changes
- 5. Energy changes
- 6. The rate and extent of chemical change
- 7. Organic chemistry
- 8. Chemical analysis
- 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
- 10. Using resources

How will I be assessed?

2 x Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/chemistry-8462>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/z8xtmnb>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Chemistry

1. Do your homework regularly. Make a note of what you are not sure of and ask a classmate or your teacher for help.
2. Revise a little and often. Fifteen minutes of revision each evening will make a huge difference to your final grades.

Science at Northgate School.

Students will follow a pathway appropriate to their previous knowledge and ability, level of engagement and future needs. This might be Combined Science or a combination of the single Sciences.

AQA Physics GCSE

What will I study?

- 1. Energy
- 2. Electricity
- 3. Particle model of matter
- 4. Atomic structure
- 5. Forces
- 6. Waves
- 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
- 8. Space physics

How will I be assessed?

2 x Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/physics-8463/specification-at-a-glance>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zsc9rdm>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Top tips for success in Physics

1. Do your homework regularly. Make a note of what you are not sure of and ask a classmate or your teacher for help.
2. Revise a little and often. Fifteen minutes of revision each evening will make a huge difference to your final grades.

AQA PSHE Unit Awards Course overview

What will I study?

AQA PSHE Unit Awards will offer you the opportunity to gain practical knowledge and skills to help you live safe, confident, healthy and responsible lives. You will study units across three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships, and living in the wider world, including economic wellbeing and aspects of careers education. These PSHE Unit Awards will act as a stepping stone towards further education, employment, training or independent living.

How will I be assessed?

All PSHE units are accredited by AQA and will be Level 2 (equivalent to Higher Level GCSE)

- Each completed PSHE unit will initially be assessed by your teacher.
- All completed PSHE units will then be sent to the AQA exam board for moderation.
- AQA will accredit you with a certificate listing all your completed PSHE units.

There is no examination for PSHE.

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/programmes/unit-award-scheme>

AQA explains about the Unit Award Scheme and all the PSHE units can be found here with a description of each one's criteria and evidence required.

GCSE BBC Bitesize

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3ckjxs>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of great videos on all the PSHE topics being studied.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

BBC Bitesize also offers a range of resources specifically on careers including what to study, taking your exams, planning a career, the world of work, with lots of great tips and advice.

AQA Units (Autumn Term)	AQA Units (Spring Term)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Emotional Wellbeing ● Healthy Lifestyles ● Making Informed Career Choices ● Applying for Jobs and Courses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sex and Relationship Education ● Personal Finance ● Personal Safety

Top tips for success in PSHE

4. When completing the PSHE units, read the criteria for each unit carefully and make sure you provide all the evidence required.
5. Try and include examples based on your own views and experience.
6. Complete all the AQA Unit Award assignments in your own words.

AQA Sociology GCSE

What will I study?

GCSE Sociology will help to develop your knowledge and understanding about society. You will study the sociology of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. The course is exciting, interesting and relevant to your lives! It will also develop your skills of investigation and constructing balanced arguments, as well as strengthen your analytical and research skills, all of which will support your progression onto a range of courses and further study.

How will I be assessed?

- You will be assessed through two exams
- Each exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long
- The total mark for each exam is 100 marks

Paper 1: **Examination worth 50%:** The sociology of families and education

Paper 2: **Examination worth 50%:** The sociology of crime & deviance & social stratification

Resources that will support my learning

AQA - <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>

AQA has a range of past papers online and also has a copy of the full specification

Seneca - <https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=Sociology>

Seneca Learning has online tutorials and standardised assessments for the whole AQA GCSE Sociology course. This is a GREAT resource.

GCSE BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zbbw2hv>

GCSE Bitesize offers a range of resources to support your GCSE Sociology studies with short quizzes at the end of each topic.

Key texts

Hodder Education:

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology, Updated Edition

My Revision Notes: AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology Workbook Paper 1: The sociology of families and education

AQA GCSE (9-1) Sociology Workbook Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

Top tips for success in Sociology

1. Learn sociological definitions.
2. Make sure you have a good knowledge and understanding of the main theories.
3. Be able to apply the main theories to the four main topic areas.
4. Be aware of different research methods (even though there is no separate question on these!) as you will be asked about them in the four main topics.

AQA Art (fine art) GCSE

What will I study?

In Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of fine art, such as those listed below:

- drawing
- painting
- sculpture
- installation
- lens-/light-based media
- photography and the moving image
- printmaking
- mixed media
- land art.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

When studying this specification students will consider how sources relate to individual, social, historical and environmental, cultural, ethical and/ or issues-based contexts. They will also consider how ideas and themes can inspire a personal response to the art work.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed against two components

Component 1: Portfolio

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

No time limit

96 marks

60% of the qualification

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Prep period and 10 hours of supervised work

96 marks

40% of GCSE

Resources that will support my learning**AQA Subject Specific Vocabulary**

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design/teach/subject-specific-vocabulary>

Top tips for success in Art

- Practice your art skills at home. You will be expected to be able to work outside of class as you continue your work.
- Visit galleries and exhibitions across a range of different types of art.

Careers websites and resources

<http://www.plotr.co.uk> – Games, and activities which are matched to you to get you thinking about your next steps

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk - The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to help you make decisions on learning, training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice. This is supported by qualified careers advisers.

www.apprenticeships.org.uk/ - The official government website to find out about apprenticeships.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship> - National database of apprenticeship vacancies.

www.careersbox.co.uk/ - A free online library of careers related film, news and information. Case study films show real people doing real jobs, giving viewers insight into careers across all sectors and helping them to find the right career.

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk> Career pilot offers quick videos and impartial information and advice about options and different types of qualifications.