OCR
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

ENGLISH *QUALIFICATIONS*

Summary brochure

When it comes to providing your students with inspiring, engaging English specifications, we've got it covered. Our qualifications are designed to meet the needs of 14 to 19 year olds – whether that's life skills, progression to further studies or career choice.

ocr.org.uk/english

WHAT'S IN THIS GUIDE?

3 | Pathways for English

4 | Entry Level English

5 | GCSE (9–1) English Language

6 | GCSE (9–1) English Literature

7 | AS and A Level English Language

8 | AS and A Level English Literature

9 | AS and A Level English Language and Literature (EMC)

10 | Supporting you in qualification delivery

Making words come to life

Whatever path your students follow, our comprehensive English suite provides a range of qualifications to prepare them for their next step. With carefully planned content and practical, creative resources, our aim is to support your success and increase your confidence in delivering our specifications.

PATHWAYS FOR ENGLISH

KS3

Entry Level
English

Entry Level is designed as a KS4 course. However, some centres may find it a useful structure/assessment for KS3.

Use Entry Level as a potential structure/ assessment for KS3

KS4

GCSE (9–1)
English Language

GCSE (9–1)
English Literature

Guide students towards suitable pathway

KS5

AS and A Level
English Language

AS and A Level
English Literature

AS and A Level
English Language and Literature (EMC)

Stimulating and engaging KS5 options

Career and progression

University

Employment

ENTRY LEVEL ENGLISH

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

R393 (from 2016)

IDEAL FOR:

A variety of students, including those who may find it difficult to access GCSE (9–1) qualifications, students on taster courses, students with learning difficulties and adult returners

PROGRESS TO:

This qualification is directly linked to GCSE (9–1) in English Language and would allow for a natural progression to a higher level of study

FINAL AWARD:

Entry 3 (highest), Entry 2 or Entry 1

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

No

THE QUALIFICATION

Our Entry Level Certificate in English inspires and engages students with a broad course of study. It builds confidence in reading, writing and spoken language skills, and encourages students to read fluently and write effectively.

This specification will enable your students to develop:

- Knowledge and understanding of engaging non-fiction and literary texts
- Informative and imaginative writing styles and the ability to produce texts for different purposes
- Confidence in using spoken language skills to communicate clearly and effectively.

Students can progress at their own pace, so they can develop their knowledge and skills and be put forward for the assessment when they're ready. This specification is designed to be accessible and relevant and provide students with recognition for their achievements. It can be the gateway to further qualifications and can be co-taught with GCSE (9–1) qualifications.

ASSESSMENT

Our Entry Level Certificate in English is designed to be as flexible as possible. It's made up of 100% internally assessed tasks and tests that can be taken at any point during the course. The flexibility allowed through this approach to assessment will allow you to take any issues that may affect your students' performance into account in your planning.

There are three areas of assessment: reading, writing and spoken language. The reading tasks are set by us and the writing and spoken language tasks are set by you, with detailed guidance from us. All three assessments are marked by teachers.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/entrylevelenglish

GCSE (9–1) ENGLISH LANGUAGE

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

J351

IDEAL FOR:

Students looking for a standalone GCSE English qualification, or for taking alongside GCSE English Literature

Students taking post-16 resits

Students who want to go on to AS and A Levels, higher education or the workplace

PROGRESS TO:

AS or A Level English qualifications: English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature, further education or the workplace

FINAL AWARD:

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

Our GCSE English Language qualification is easy to navigate and is accessible to the range of students taking GCSEs.

It is a skills-based qualification that supports students to engage with relevant, interesting and diverse non-fiction and literary texts across a range of familiar genres, and to write in a range of forms.

Students will develop the skills to critically analyse and evaluate ideas and information in unseen texts.

They'll also develop the skills to read fluently and write effectively.

The specification will encourage students to:

- Develop independent and critical thinking
- Engage with the richness of our language and literary heritage
- Experiment in writing across a range of contexts and styles.

ASSESSMENT

There are two exams: one focusing on non-fiction texts and writing tasks, the second focusing on literary texts and creative writing tasks. Both exams put equal emphasis on reading and writing skills.

Spoken language is a separate endorsement, internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 1: Communicating information and ideas

- 50% of the total GCSE
- 2-hour written paper
- 80 marks

Component 2: Exploring effects and impact

- 50% of the total GCSE
- 2-hour written paper
- 80 marks

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/gcseenglishlanguage

GCSE (9–1) ENGLISH LITERATURE

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

J352

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to go on to AS or A Levels, further education or a career choice

PROGRESS TO:

AS or A Level English qualifications: English Language, English Literature or English Language and Literature, further education or the workplace

FINAL AWARD:

9 (highest) to 1 (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

Our GCSE English Literature qualification gives students an insight into and experience of a diverse and engaging range of literature, both modern and classic.

The course is designed to develop students' confidence and skill in engaging with and responding to whole texts in the major genres, stimulating their curiosity and encouraging them to reflect on literature in relation to their own experiences in the modern world.

Students will study modern drama or fiction, a 19th century novel, a Shakespeare play and a range of poetry from the late 18th century to the modern day.

The specification will encourage:

- Skills in writing critically, effectively and analytically about a range of texts that have been chosen to appeal to students with different interests and enthusiasms
- Engaged personal responses to poetry, choosing from diverse and stimulating themes for study in the free OCR poetry anthology
- Confidence in developing and articulating a fresh, individual response to texts, including unseen texts.

ASSESSMENT

This is a linear qualification with 100% external assessment at the end of the course. There are two, 2-hour exams, each with a 50% weighting:

- Exploring modern and literary heritage texts (01)
- Exploring poetry and Shakespeare (02).

Students have the opportunity to answer either extract-based and discursive-style questions, exploring key themes and ideas in their chosen texts, as well as evaluating how writers use language and create effects.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/gcseenglishliterature

AS AND A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

AS Level – H070
A Level – H470

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to explore how English language works in a variety of contexts, develop linguistic analysis skills and get creative with language use

PROGRESS TO:

Undergraduate study in either English language or linguistics, as well as progression into other language-related degrees such as modern languages or classics, apprenticeships or employment

FINAL AWARD:

A* (highest) to E (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

These specifications build on what students know already from GCSE, to teach the skills every linguist needs to explore language use and understand the differences between spoken and written language.

There are plenty of opportunities for students to engage with real world language use – including exploring attitudes to current language issues, spoken language acquisition and looking at language in particular contexts. Our specifications give students the practical skills to become independent critical readers and analysers of language use in the 21st century.

The course has textual analysis at its heart. All components develop students' ability to understand the main language frameworks, explore features and patterns across a wide range of spoken and written forms and understand their intended purpose.

ASSESSMENT

There's a clear sense of development throughout the course, culminating in the opportunity to undertake an independent language investigation. This allows students to pursue more detailed work in a field of particular personal interest, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level.

AS Level

There are two examined components, worth 50% each. It's important to note that both components cover topics included in the A Level and so maximise the opportunities for co-teachability with the full A Level.

A Level

There are two examined components and one non-exam assessment component. The two exams are equally weighted at 40% each, and offer the opportunity for students to provide exploratory responses to a range of texts.

The non-exam assessment is worth 20% and comprises of two tasks – an independent language investigation and a poster summarising the investigation for a new audience.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/alevelenglishlanguage

AS AND A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

AS Level – H072
A Level – H472

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to develop their understanding of literary analysis and engage critically and creatively with a wide range of literature

PROGRESS TO:

Higher education, employment or apprenticeships

FINAL AWARD:

A* (highest) to E (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

The English team has developed A Levels that prepare students for university study, and engage and enthuse aspiring students and teachers alike. This specification builds on what students know already from GCSE, to teach the skills every literature student needs to explore and understand a wide range of texts, and to help develop the valuable transferable skills of wide, independent reading and the ability to produce a critical argument.

Throughout the course, students are encouraged to develop critical awareness and understanding of individual works of literature, of relationships between texts and of the significance of cultural and contextual influences on readers and writers. The variety and breadth of texts on offer mean that there are many opportunities for a personal, tailored approach. We have chosen both familiar and fresh topic areas for study, including American Literature 1880 to 1940 and The Immigrant Experience.

All examinations are closed text. This means set texts don't have to be specified editions, so you can use existing resources or purchase inexpensive ones. We've created extended set text lists for each section to increase the teaching choice available. This means if a set text isn't working, you'll have the confidence to change.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

There are two examined components worth 50% each. The simple structure is easy to navigate and reflects that of the A Level English Literature qualification. The set texts for AS Level have been chosen to support co-teachability with the full A Level.

A Level

There are two examined components and one non-exam assessment component. The two exams are equally weighted at 40% each and offer opportunities for students to provide extended exploratory responses to their studied texts. The first exam looks at pre-1900 drama and poetry; the second is a synoptic prose study of two novels. The non exam assessment offers freedom for students to study modern prose, drama and poetry texts of their choosing across two tasks, offering excellent preparation for study at undergraduate level.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/alevelenglishliterature

AS AND A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (EMC)

KEY INFORMATION

SPECIFICATION CODE:

AS Level – H074
A Level – H474

IDEAL FOR:

Students who want to develop both literary and linguistic approaches to exploring texts and to become both confident readers and skilled producers of original writing

PROGRESS TO:

Higher education, employment or apprenticeships

FINAL AWARD:

A* (highest) to E (lowest)

PERFORMANCE POINTS:

Yes

THE QUALIFICATION

English Language and Literature (EMC) is a unique and distinctive qualification developed in partnership with the English & Media Centre (EMC). By A Level, English students are cultivating their own critical responses and engaging with the richness of language and literature. Our English Language and Literature (EMC) AS and A Level qualifications are designed for depth and breadth of study, with flexible content that supports independence, wide reading and creativity.

Students study a diverse and stimulating range of fiction, non-fiction and spoken texts. The course also enables students to develop their creativity and expertise by producing their own original writing both in the exam and the non-exam assessment.

ASSESSMENT

AS Level

There are two examined components. The first focuses on the OCR/EMC anthology of non-fiction spoken and written texts. The second focuses on the same prose fiction texts and poetry texts as for A Level.

A Level

There are three examined components and one non-exam assessment component. The first focuses on non-fiction spoken and written texts from an OCR/EMC anthology. The second explores poetry and drama. The third involves the study of narrative fiction, from a choice of six prose texts. In this exam, students also produce their own piece of creative writing and a commentary.

The non-exam assessment comprises two tasks – an analytical comparative essay and a non-fiction original writing piece.

READ MORE:

ocr.org.uk/alevelenglishlanguageandliterature

SUPPORTING YOU IN QUALIFICATION DELIVERY

We are with you all the way on your journey with us; from initial enquiry right through to results. We provide a range of advice, resources and assessment support that will help you develop professionally and secure your students' futures.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

EXPERT SUBJECT ADVICE

Our subject advisors provide information and support to schools, including specification and non-exam assessment advice, updates on resource developments and a range of training opportunities. You can reach them through our customer support centre on **01223 553998** or by email at **english@ocr.org.uk**

You can also find teacher support at **ocr.org.uk/english**

TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES

- **Teach Cambridge**
  Teach Cambridge is our new personalised and secure website that provides teachers with a single point of access to all the support and resources you need to teach our qualifications.
- **Teaching activities**
  Activities to support and inspire your English lessons.
- **Skills guides**
  A range of generic skills guides providing knowledge and tips covering topics such as communication, research skills and exam techniques.
- **Topic exploration packs**
- **Teacher and delivery guides**
  A range of lesson ideas with associated activities that you can use with students to deliver the contents of the qualifications.
- **Scheme of work**
- **Poetry anthology**
  Towards a World Unknown is our set poetry anthology with three themed poetry clusters to choose from.

PARTNER RESOURCES AND TEXTBOOKS

Our English qualifications are supported by endorsed textbooks and resources published by leading publishers. You can find more details about our publisher partners and the resources they're providing at **ocr.org.uk/publishing-partners**

BLOGS

Read our English blogs and gain interesting insights from our subject advisors and other leading figures from the world of English education.

KEEP UP TO DATE

Sign up today at **ocr.org.uk/signup** for OCR updates including subject news, upcoming events and useful resources.

ASSESSMENT

ACTIVE RESULTS

This is a **free** online A Level, GCSE and Cambridge Nationals results analysis service to help you review the performance of individual students or your whole school. Active Results provides access to detailed results data, enabling more comprehensive analysis of results to give you a more accurate measure of the achievements of your centre and students. Find out more at **ocr.org.uk/activeresults**

ASSESSMENT MATERIALS

Sample question papers and sample candidate work.

PAST PAPERS

Previous examination papers for each subject with which you and your students can practise.

PRACTICE PAPERS

Create mock exams and help students get a clearer picture of the qualification requirements. We put all our practice papers through exactly the same long and detailed processes as the live papers to ensure that they match the style and rigour of the live assessments.

CANDIDATE EXEMPLARS

A selection of candidate style answers and work with associated examiner commentary.

TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND EVENTS

All our qualifications are supported with comprehensive training. Check out **ocr.org.uk/professionaldevelopment** to find out what's available for face-to-face or online training courses.

TEACHER NETWORKS

These free informal twilight meetings are designed to encourage and develop local networking and support for English in your area. They're an opportunity to speak with like-minded colleagues and one of our subject advisors.
Visit **teach.ocr.org.uk/teacher-network-events** to find a meeting near you.

JOIN OUR *TEACHER PANEL*

SHARE VALUABLE FEEDBACK ON EVERYTHING FROM CREATIVE CONCEPTS TO TEACHING AND SUPPORT RESOURCES.

ocr.org.uk/join

NEXT STEPS

STEP 1

ALREADY AN OCR CENTRE?

GREAT, YOU'RE ALL SET.

IF NOT, CALL OUR CUSTOMER DEVELOPMENT TEAM ON 02476 856072

STEP 2

ASK YOUR **EXAMS OFFICER** FOR **ACCESS** TO **TEACH CAMBRIDGE**

teachcambridge.org

STEP 3

DOWNLOAD
THE **SPECIFICATION**
AND **CHECK OUT OUR**
RANGE OF **RESOURCES**

STEP 4

KEEP UP-TO-DATE
BY SIGNING UP FOR
EMAIL UPDATES

STEP 5

BOOK ONTO **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EVENTS**
AND **TEACHER NETWORKS**

ocr.org.uk

For more information visit
ocr.org.uk/english
facebook.com/ocrexams
twitter.com/ocr_english
instagram.com/ocrexaminations
linkedin.com/company/ocr
youtube.com/ocrexams

Call our customer support centre on
01223 553998

Alternatively, you can email us on
english@ocr.org.uk

Visit our online support centre at
support.ocr.org.uk

CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT

OCR is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored. ©OCR 2021 Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations is a Company Limited by Guarantee. Registered in England. Registered office The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA. Registered company number 3484466. OCR is an exempt charity.

OCR operates academic and vocational qualifications regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and CCEA as listed in their qualifications registers including A Levels, GCSEs, Cambridge Technicals and Cambridge Nationals.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment is committed to making our documents accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 Standard. We're always looking to improve the accessibility of our documents. If you find any problems or you think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, please contact us.