



English KS4

In years 10 and 11 pupils follow two accredited courses through the AQA examining board

This year is a transition year for English accredited courses. The “Entry Level Certificate in English” had its last entries last summer (June 2016). As we knew this was to be the last year it was on offer we fast tracked Year 10 (the present Y11) through the course with excellent results. Therefore, the present year 11 can concentrate on progressing through the “Functional Skills English” course as it is the last year it will be available at entry level:

- Entry level 1
- Entry level 2
- Entry level 3
- Level 1 (GCSE equivalent C – E)
- Level 2 (GCSE equivalent A – C)

“Step Up to English” replaces “Entry Level Certificate in English” so the present Y10 group will be working towards this accreditation alongside the “Functional Skills English” so that both year groups have the opportunity to achieve two English accreditations at the end of their final year.

“Functional Skills English” focuses on the aspects of reading, writing and speaking and listening, that are likely to be used on a practical, day to day basis. Pupils work towards the level most suitable for them and are entered for certification when tutors feel they are ready. There are three opportunities in the year for pupils to be entered.

Entry Level Certificate Step up to English



Entry Level Certificates are nationally recognised qualifications that give students the opportunity to achieve a certified award. The specification will encourage Entry Level students to develop the skills they need to read and understand a range of texts as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures.

The qualification can be tailored to students' needs through either Silver step or Gold step. Silver step is aimed at Entry 1 and Entry 2 students and Gold step is for Entry 3 students looking to progress to Level 1 Functional Skills or GCSE.

Component 1: Literacy topics

The aim of this component is to introduce students to literacy skills by:

- offering familiar and engaging transactional topics based in the real world
- structuring the topics so that they can be built up as a module of work over a number of sessions
- giving students at this level a route into study through the accessible nature of spoken language.

Component 2: Creative reading and writing

The aim of this component is to engage students in creative texts and inspire them to write creatively themselves by:

- reading two texts which could be fiction or literary non-fiction.
- writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic they have responded to in Reading.

This component will assess AO1, AO2 and AO3 for Reading and AO5 and AO6 for Writing. Reading and Writing are equally weighted with 30 marks available for each.

At Gold step one of the texts will be from the 19th century and the second text will be from either the 20th or 21st centuries.



Functional Skills English

This specification aims to ensure students have good communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. It assesses whether students can use these skills in everyday situations.

This course helps students develop applied skills in English, enabling them to get the most from life, learning and work. Using separate tasks, it assesses:

- Reading
- Writing
- Speaking, Listening and Communication.

The course is suitable for those who can show the outlined skills at the appropriate level.

Students can take components of the qualification in different exam series or all in the same series. All components are assessed by controlled assessment, enabling teachers to assess students when they are ready.