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This new GCSE, first launched in September 2015, will be assessed in a very different way from in the past. Grades will be awarded at bands 1-9 with a '4/5' being equivalent to an old 'grade C/B' and 9 being a new higher benchmark of equivalent to A**.

Students are not entered at Higher or Foundation – there is one paper for all.

Outline content:

The specification is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all students.

It will enable students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

Assessment including terminal examinations and controlled assessments:

Students will be assessed across the three years with a balance of assessments, This will include short, in-class assessments and full mock examinations.

Exams are 1 hour 45 minutes and separated into the following:

Paper 1:

Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing, looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers.

A Fiction paper, with one extract.

40 marks will be awarded for the ability to analyse the language used.

40 marks will be awarded for writing a creative, descriptive short story.

Paper 2:

Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

This is a Non-Fiction paper, with two extracts.

40 marks will be awarded for the ability to analyse the language used and to compare sources.

40 marks will be awarded for writing a Non-Fiction view point.

(Letter/speech/article..etc.)

All texts in the exams will be unseen.

All students are required to submit a speaking and listening assessment.

This can be on a topic of their choice.

Examples of learning activities:

These will include individual and group learning; research; offsite visits and home learning.



Skills that will be developed:

- read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately