



RUSKIN
A PRIORY ACADEMY

KS4 Core Curriculum

English

Course Description

A GCSE in English Language and English Literature enables students to draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real life and relevant contexts.

Students will have the opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

The specification will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts. Students will read and be assessed on high quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Texts will include a range of genres and types and will enable students to consider the writers' viewpoints and perspectives as well as develop skills including; persuasion, analysis, summary and synthesis. These essential skills will be further developed via the study of spoken language and how it is used in different contexts. This forms part of the programme of study but it will not form part of the final grade.

The new Literature syllabus continues to offer students the opportunity to explore a wide range of the finest Literature including: William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Mary Shelley, Jane Austen, Robert Louis Stevenson and Sir Aurther Conan Doyle. Students will also study more modern texts including post 1914 prose, fiction and drama. The new syllabus is challenging and requires the reading of whole texts rather than extracts.

Assessment Structure

English Language Assessment:

Paper 1—Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing—50% of final GCSE grade.

Paper 2—Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives—50% of final GCSE grade.

Spoken Language—Teacher assessed throughout the course of study—0% of final GCSE grade. As required by AQA, this element of the course will be recorded (via Academy camera) for moderation purposes.

Literature Assessment:

Paper 1—Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel—40% of final GCSE grade.

Paper 2—Modern Texts and Poetry—60% of final GCSE grade.

Special Features:

In recognition of the need for English to be relevant to the real, post-education world, there is now an increased focus on developing functional skills—i.e. those skills (such as persuasive writing, formal speech, etc) essential for success in real, post educational situations; particularly the world of employment.

The GCSE English course offers the ability to achieve two GCSE qualifications in a core subject. All students will be guided through a GCSE in both GCSE English Language and Literature.

Mathematics

Course Description

You will have already studied Mathematics for several years before embarking upon the GCSE course which has been designed to build upon the foundations laid down in Years 7, 8 and 9.

A mixture of learning activities are used in the teaching of Mathematics, including teacher led discussions and tasks, small group investigations, use of ICT and textbook/booklet practice to deepen a student's understanding. Our aim is to make Mathematics as accessible and enjoyable as possible for all our students through the use of a variety of teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles. Investigative and exploratory work is encouraged in the learning of Mathematics together with a strong emphasis on the essential algebraic, numeric, geometric and statistical skills.

The coverage of broader and deeper mathematical content is delivered through a single extended GCSE with two tiers of entry. There is more emphasis on problem-solving, communication, proof, and interpretation. There will be additional requirements to provide clear mathematical arguments.

- Higher tier will include questions that will stretch the most able.
- Foundation tier will focus on core mathematical understanding and skills for all students to master.

External Assessment Structure

- Students will be entered for GCSE at the end of Year 11

Examination Level	Grades Available	Papers and Duration
Edexcel Higher	4-9	3 x 1.5 hours
Edexcel Foundation	1-5	3 x 1.5 hours

On both Foundation and Higher levels of GCSE entry each paper is worth 80 marks - the combined score for all 3 papers is used to decide the grade. Grade boundaries vary so it is not as simple as saying X marks will gain you a Grade 4 etc.

- Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper

- Paper 2 is a calculator paper
- Paper 3 is a calculator paper

The assessment objectives for the examinations are as follows:

- AO1: Use and apply standard techniques - (50%
Foundation, 40% Higher)
- AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically - (25%
Foundation, 30% Higher)
- AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and other context - (25%
Foundation, 30% Higher)

Internal Assessment Structure

Year 10 and Year 11 students are assessed on a termly basis based on the topics studied in lessons.

Year 10 will sit full GCSE papers at the end of each year to track progress and inform subsequent teaching.

Year 11 students sit two mock exams, one in November and one in March. These are to encourage students to prepare for their GCSE examinations in the summer.

Science

Course Description

There are two curriculum paths through GCSE Sciences.

Most students follow the AQA Combined Science: Trilogy specification, leading to a double GCSE award.

Students in Set 1 follow AQA separate science specifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, leading to three independently assessed GCSEs.

The courses develop a range of skills in a scientific context and there is an emphasis on the scientific process and how scientific thinking has developed.

Key skill areas are:

- Demonstrating scientific knowledge.
- Using scientific knowledge in explanations.
- Planning and performing practical work.
- Presenting data in tables, graphs and bar charts.
- Analysing and evaluating data.

Assessment Structure

Combined Science: Trilogy

Students will take six, 1 hour 15 minute examinations, two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics.

The marks are combined to award a double GCSE grade.

Separate Sciences

Students will take two, 1 hour 45 minute examinations for each science, six examinations in all.

Students will receive a GCSE grade in each science.

Special Features

There is no coursework or internal assessment of any kind.

During the course students are expected to complete Required Practical Activities which will be the major focus of questions testing the students understanding of practical work in the final examinations.