

Helping your child to learn  
at  
The Priory Ruskin Academy

**Subject:** GCSE English Language  
**Exam Board and Spec:** AQA

**Examination:** Grades U – A\*

**Coursework/assessment requirements: English Language**

Reading and Writing Examination  
Speaking and Listening Controlled Assessment  
Reading and Writing Controlled Assessment

**Coursework/assessment requirements: English Literature**

Written Examinations  
1 Controlled Assessment

**Examination Dates:** May / June 2013

**What will my child be learning and when?**

The department offers both English Language and English Literature, with controlled assessments throughout the two years.

**What specific things does my child have to be able to do to achieve a Grade C in this subject?**

- Sustain plot and characterisation.
- Use detailed content well organised between paragraphs.
- Use simple, compound and complex sentences to vary the length and focus.
- Make valid comments based on appropriate detail from the text.
- Show clear awareness of the reader/intended audience
- Shape ideas into coherent arguments.

## Speaking and Listening

- Effectively communicate information, ideas and feelings.
- Promote issues and points of view.
- Make significant contributions that move discussions forward.
- Develop and sustain roles and characters through appropriate language, gesture and movement

## Spoken Language

- Show confident awareness of how spoken language is used and adapted.
- Be able to analyse and evaluate variations and changes in spoken language.

## **What specific things does my child have to do to achieve a grade A in this subject?**

- Use a wide range of appropriate ambitious vocabulary.
- Selected and prioritise material to maintain interest.
- Ensure content firmly engages the reader's interest.
- Show sophisticated understanding of the purpose of the task.
- Show sustained awareness of the reader/intended audience.
- Use accurate punctuation to vary pace and create deliberate effects.

## Speaking and listening

- Use a number of strategies to meet challenging contexts and purposes.
- Show an assured choice and flexibility of standard English Vocabulary and grammar in appropriate situations

## Spoken Languages

- Sustain awareness of how spoken language is used, selected and adapted.
- Show ability to analyse and evaluate changes in spoken language.

## **Is there any coursework?**

All coursework has been changed to Controlled Assessments which is basically writing coursework in exam conditions.

**Are there any controlled assessments in this subject and what do they involve? When are they and how can I help?**

The Controlled Assessments take place either in the classroom or hall.

Each assessment will be timed and under formal supervision.

**What should I do to generally support my child in this subject?**

- Ensure your child completes homework tasks
- Discuss with your child their own and others' uses of language e.g. whilst watching television or whilst responding to other people and situations.
- Practice individual presentations.
- Ask your child to tell you about the texts they have studied.
- Research into the background of texts.

**Are there any specific revision materials? How much and from where?**

- Classroom and homework notes given from school.
- Study guides can be bought from any book shop or online.

**What are some useful websites? How can I make best use of them?**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/>

On the revision section – your child can do the test bite section.

**What are the general support materials on offer in this subject?**

DVDs of books/plays

Sparknotes website or books

Bitesize GCSE

**How much time should my child be spending doing homework in this subject?**

Approx one piece per week of 45 minutes to 1 hour. This may include written tasks, research or preparation work.

### **How do I know when they have homework?**

Check their planners. If the homework has not been completed, their teacher will write a note in the planner. Telephone the school if there are any problems or queries.

### **Are there any tips for me to help them do their homework?**

Encourage children to read a wide range of materials.  
Supervise timed exam questions in preparation for exams and controlled assessments.

If completing a piece of research check that Facebook etc has not taken over!

### **General tips**

Has my child a suitable workspace? Is it quiet and away from distractions?

Have I checked my child's planner for homework this week?

Have I checked to see if my child has his/her basic equipment?