



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form – English Language Curriculum (Year 10)

The English Language curriculum at Thomas Mills High School is designed to equip pupils with a strong foundation in the skills and knowledge required for the AQA GCSE English Language course.

The course aims to build pupils' understanding and mastery across three key areas of learning:

- Substantive knowledge: knowledge of texts, language features, and writing conventions

Pupils study a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, gaining knowledge of how writers craft language and structure for effect. They are taught the conventions of different genres and forms and develop an understanding of how language reflects context, audience and purpose. Pupils also build explicit knowledge of grammar, punctuation and vocabulary to strengthen their writing. For Paper 2, they explore how writers convey opinions, build arguments and engage readers through the study of a wide range of non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including autobiographies, letters, newspaper articles, speeches and travel writing. Pupils also develop a toolkit of rhetorical and linguistic techniques for their own writing.

- Ways of knowing: pupils learn 'how to know' about language

Through close reading, annotation, modelling and guided analysis, pupils learn how to interpret, evaluate and compare texts. They develop strategies for approaching unseen extracts, asking critical questions about the writer's methods and intentions. They also engage with the processes of planning, drafting, editing and refining their writing for a range of purposes and audiences. For Paper 2, pupils are taught how to approach unseen texts methodically skimming for gist, scanning for detail, and analysing how language and structure are used to present viewpoints. They learn how to compare writer' perspectives and methods across time periods, and to plan and structure their own persuasive or discursive writing.

- Personal knowledge: pupils reflect on their use of language and communication

Pupils explore how their experiences, identity and perspectives influence the way they read and write. They are encouraged to express their ideas clearly and creatively, and to reflect on how language can be used to shape meaning and influence others. Through discussion, debate, and peer feedback, they learn to appreciate multiple viewpoints and the power of effective communication. Pupils explore how their own beliefs, experiences and values shape their reading and writing. Through writing to express a viewpoint, they are encouraged to consider tone, audience and rhetorical effect. They reflect on how language can influence, inspire or persuade—and the ethical responsibilities of writers and speakers.



Discussion, exploration and active engagement are at the heart of the Year 10 English Language curriculum. Pupils are supported to build confidence and independence as writers and readers. They are encouraged to develop their voice, to think critically, and to communicate ideas with clarity, empathy and purpose.

Year 10 Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	Language Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading (Paper 1, Section A) and Creative Writing: Descriptive & Narrative (Paper 1, Section B)	<p>Knowledge: Pupils will explore a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts while developing analytical, creative and technical writing skills. The curriculum is structured to promote high standards of literacy, encourage confident communication, and foster a love of language.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading and responding to unseen 20th/21st-century fiction• Identifying and analysing language and structural features• Making inferences and interpreting writers' intent• Developing critical vocabulary and close reading skills• Writing descriptively and narratively for effect• Crafting setting, character and atmosphere• Structuring a compelling narrative• Using figurative language and varied sentence forms	<p>https://app.senecalearning.com/classroom/course/df1578de-6327-45fa-9420-1619f20f680e</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4#:~:text=GCSE%20English%20Language%20%2D%20AQA%20%2D%20BBC%20Bitesize</p> <p>https://mmerevise.co.uk/gcse-english-language-revision/gcse-english-language-past-papers/aqa-gcse-english-language-past-papers/</p> <p>https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/english-language/</p>



Assessments		Pupils will do two assessments: 1. Paper 1, Section A – Questions 1 -4 2. Paper 1, Section B – Q5 Creative Writing- Narrative or Descriptive Writing	
2	Language Paper 1	Knowledge: as Term 1 Skills: as Term 1 .	As Term 1
Assessments		Pupils will sit an English Language Paper 1 Section A and Section B	
3	Language Paper 2 Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	Knowledge: Year 10 focuses on developing pupils' understanding of non-fiction texts across time, refining their ability to read critically, compare viewpoints, and write effectively for audience and purpose. Skills: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploring 19th and 21st-century non-fiction • Identifying writer's viewpoint and attitude • Analysing language and rhetorical methods Introduction to comparing texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing comparative reading skills 	https://englishgcse.co.uk/collections/free-resources https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: English Language

	Spoken Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comparing tone, purpose and methods across texts• Exploring structure and organisation in non-fiction• Writing to argue, persuade and inform• Using rhetorical devices effectively• Structuring essays for impact• Developing tone, register and audience awareness • Preparing and delivering a persuasive speech• Using body language and voice effectively• Responding to audience questions	<p>https://www.oxfordrevise.com/qaq-english-language_paper-2-answers/</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LRVOLavXNm9</p> <p>https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/english-secondary-ks4-qaq/units/spoken-language-the-language-of-change/lessons/choosing-a-speech-topic-and-developing-ideas?sid-44cc1c=YaeORa6kbz&sm=0&src=4#slide-deck</p>
Assessment	Delivering a speech on a topic of their choice to an audience and responding to questions.		