



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form – English Language Curriculum (Year 11)

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,



Year 11			
Term	Topic	Knowledge and Skills	Useful Links
1	English Language Paper 2 Question 5 Preparation for Preparatory Examinations – Paper 2 Language	Knowledge: Revising and developing pupils' language skills for Paper 2, question 5 (transactional writing) Skills: • communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences • Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features • Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation Knowledge: Revision of understanding of non-fiction texts across time, refining pupils' ability to read critically, compare viewpoints, and write effectively for audience and purpose. Skills: • Exploring 19th and 21st-century non-fiction • Identifying writer's viewpoint and attitude • Analysing language and rhetorical methods • Introduction to comparing texts • Developing comparative reading skills	AQA English Language Paper 2: EVERYTHING You Need To Pass Q1- Q5 Of The 2025 GCSE Exams - YouTube How To Answer ANY GCSE Language Paper 2, Question 5 Exam (2025 GCSE Exams) - YouTube INCREDIBLE Method for Q 5 Magazine Article - YouTube Nail Question 5! Persuasive Writing Techniques You Must Know - YouTube



		• 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	
Assessments		• Written response in exam conditions to Paper 2 Question 5 – Transactional Writing	
2	Preparatory Examinations Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	Knowledge: After the exams pupils will revisit and check knowledge. There will be opportunities to consolidate knowledge, address any gaps and improve skills Skills: • Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas, select and synthesise evidence • Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure, analyse writers' ideas and perspectives and how these are conveyed, communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively • Read, understand and respond to texts, analyse language, form and structure using relevant subject terminology, show understanding of the	GCSE English Language - AQA - BBC Bitesize AQA English Revision



		relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation	
Assessments		Ongoing practice assessments and essays ahead of examinations	
3		Knowledge: Pupils will revisit all texts from across the course. They will embed knowledge, skills and hone examination technique Skills: - Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas, select and synthesise evidence - Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure, analyse writers' ideas and perspectives and how these are conveyed, communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively - Read, understand and respond to texts, analyse language, form and structure using relevant subject terminology, show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written	GCSE AQA English Language Revision - Revise.ly https://app.senecalearning.com/classroom/course/df1578de-6327-45fa-9420-1619f20f680e https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/examspecs/zcbchv4#:~:text=GCSE%20English%20Language%20%2D%20AQA%20%2D%20BBC%20Bitesize https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/english-language/ https://mmerevise.co.uk/gcse-english-language-revision/gcse-english-language-past-papers/aqa-gcse-english-language-past-papers/ https://studywise.co.uk/gcse-revision/english-language/



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CURRICULUM OVERVIEW: English Language

		Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.	AQA GCSE English Language Past Papers - Revision World
Assessment	Ongoing practice assessments and essays ahead of examinations		