



A Star Equivalency
English Specification

Subject Content

Overview

Students will engage with a variety of texts, drawing on these as a stimulus for reading. They will explore relevant contexts, developing higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that promote genuine inquiry into diverse topics and themes. This specification ensures that students will read with fluency and write effectively. They will demonstrate confident use of Standard English, crafting grammatically accurate sentences, employing figurative language, and analysing texts.

For GCSE Equivalency, students should:

- Read fluently with strong comprehension across a wide range of texts.
- Critically read and evaluate texts, making comparisons between them.
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts.
- Use knowledge from broad reading to enhance and refine their own writing.
- Write clearly and coherently, employing Standard English effectively.
- Correctly use grammar, punctuation, and spelling.
- Develop and apply a broad vocabulary, alongside understanding of grammatical terminology and linguistic conventions for reading, writing, and spoken language.

Scope of Study

This English GCSE Equivalency specification requires students to engage with the following content:

Critical Reading and Comprehension

- Critical reading and comprehension: Identifying and interpreting themes, ideas, and information from a variety of literature and high-quality writing; adapting reading approaches for different purposes; comparing and evaluating the relevance, usefulness, and presentation of content accordingly; drawing inferences and supporting them with evidence; justifying a viewpoint by referring to textual evidence; identifying bias and the misuse of evidence, including distinguishing between substantiated and unsubstantiated statements; critically evaluating texts using their context and insights from wider reading; recognising that texts can evoke different responses.
- Summary and synthesis: Identifying key themes; summarising ideas and information from a single text; synthesising content from multiple texts.
- Evaluating a writer's choice of vocabulary, form, grammar, and structure: Explaining how vocabulary and grammar contribute to a text's effectiveness and impact, using precise linguistic and literary terminology; analysing and evaluating how form and structure enhance a text's overall effectiveness and impact.
- Comparing texts: Critically comparing two or more texts with reference to the points above.

Writing

- Producing clear and coherent text: Writing effectively for a range of purposes and audiences, including description, narration, explanation, instruction, providing and responding to information, and argumentation; carefully selecting vocabulary, grammar, form, and organisational features to suit audience, purpose, and context; using language imaginatively and creatively; incorporating information from external sources into different forms of writing; maintaining a consistent point of view and ensuring coherence throughout.
- Writing for impact: Organising and emphasising facts, ideas, and key points effectively; citing evidence and quotations appropriately to support opinions; creating emotional impact; using language creatively, persuasively, and imaginatively, including rhetorical devices such as rhetorical questions, antithesis, and parenthesis.

Assessment Objectives

A01

- Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas
- Select and synthesise evidence from different texts

A02

Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views

A03

Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts

A04

Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references

A05

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 to support coherence and cohesion of texts

A06

Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Exam Breakdown

	Question	AO	Marks	Time
Section A: Reading (60 Marks)	1	AO1	4	1 hour 25 minutes
	2	AO1	8	
	3	AO2	12	
	4	AO3	16	
	5	AO4	20	
Section B: Writing (40 Marks)	6	AO5 AO6	40 (24 marks for content and organisation / 16 marks for technical accuracy)	45 minutes
Total			100	2 hours 10 minutes

Exam Summary

Format	Description
Exam type	Online or paper-based
Exam Location	Sat at home/work - invigilated online
Exam availability	All year round
Exam structure	1 paper
Exam timing	2 hours 10 minutes
Number of marks	100 marks total, split into the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Section A - 60 marks• Section B - 40 marks
Tiers	None
Level	9-1
Exam content coverage	Questions cover AO1-AO6. There is no separate endorsement to this exam.
Question types	A mixture of question types, including long written response questions.
Additional equipment required	n/a



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