

November 2010

Dear Year 10 Parents and Pupils,

Re: GCSE English Literature and Language - Controlled Assessment

I am writing to inform you of the changes in assessment that have been implemented this academic year for the new GCSE course by the AQA examination board.

What is controlled assessment?

Controlled assessment will be replacing all coursework for GCSE English Language and Literature from September 2010. Pupils will no longer be able to produce their coursework at home. This new method is aimed at providing a greater level of control than previous coursework and has been developed to elicit a fresh response from pupils.

How will pupils prepare?

To prepare, pupils will be encouraged to create their own notes for the task, on a headed sheet provided by the exam board which is the only thing they can use during the controlled conditions assessment tasks. These sheets will be checked by teachers prior to each of the controlled conditions coursework pieces and will need to be submitted with the coursework.

How many pieces of Controlled Assessment will pupils have to complete?

Over the two-year GCSE course, pupils will be completing a total of **five** pieces. As these pieces must be completed in class, they will be taking place during lesson time. There is a time allowance for each of the pieces (please see below) and pupils will not be permitted to take home what they complete within a lesson. Teachers will not be able to mark the work and provide feedback, until the allocated time has been used up.

Assessment windows have been created for these five pieces and are as follows:

- **December 2010 , w/c 6 December** – Creative Writing 1 – Film/Media (**2 hours** in up to 4 lessons)
- **February 2011** – Spoken Language Unit (**3 hours** in up to 6 lessons)
- **April 2011** – Creative Writing 2, based on a piece of literature (**2 hours** in up to 4 lessons)
- **October 2011** – Extended Reading, based on *Of Mice and Men* (**4 hours** in up to 8 lessons)
- **February 2012** – Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage (**4 hours** in up to 8 lessons)

It is therefore essential that **pupils do not miss these lessons, unless they have a serious, valid reason.** It will be very difficult for them to catch up on this work and they may need to stay after school in order to do so and not miss further curriculum time.

More information can be found on the exam board’s website: www.aqa.org.uk/resource-zone/English/English.php

Thank you for your support. Please return the reply slip to the English teacher.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Enstone
KS4 Coordinator, English Department

Please return the reply slip to student’s English Teacher

I/we confirm receipt of your letter regarding GCSE English Literature and Language - Controlled Assessment.

Child’s Name: Form:

Signed Parent/Carer: Date: