


<b>Course Title</b>	<p>GCSE English Language online</p> 
<b>Course Description</b>	<p>This blended learning course aims to develop learners' skills and fluency in the inter-related disciplines of reading, writing and speaking and listening. The course will be delivered via online distance learning. There will also be a minimum of 2 hours of guided learning activities per week, as well as mock exams scheduled to take place in Comberton Village College.</p> <p>During the (approx) 30 weeks of the course, a variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including online digital learning materials, detailed PowerPoints, handouts, visual aids, and mock exams. Learners will have the opportunity to share their ideas in group discussions, as well as paired work.</p> <p>Learners will read a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries, including literature and literary non-fiction as well as other writing such as reviews and journalism. By studying these texts, learners will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts</li> <li>- summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts</li> <li>- use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing</li> <li>- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately</li> <li>- use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately</li> <li>- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, alongside a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language</li> <li>- listen to and understand spoken language and use spoken Standard English effectively.</li> </ul> <p>The GCSE English Language course is designed on the basis that students should read and be assessed on high-quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Each text studied represents a substantial piece of writing, making significant demands on students in terms of content, structure and the quality of language. The texts, across a range of genres and types, will support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models. The texts will include literature and extended literary non-</p>

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fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online).

In addition to the two written exam papers which make up the assessment for the GCSE English qualification, all learners must also undertake a spoken endorsement element which involves one spoken presentation to the group. ***The spoken endorsement element is a compulsory requirement of the course of study, although it does not contribute towards the GCSE qualification. It will appear on all candidates' certificates as a separately reported grade, alongside the overall grade issued.***

The specification used for this course is the AQA 9 - 1 English Language GCSE (8700). The course is assessed via two final exam papers. **The exams will take place at the end of May/start of June 2026. At the present time, exam dates have not been set, these will be communicated to you as soon as they are confirmed.**

**PLEASE NOTE: As with all new-style GCSEs, grades A\* - U have been replaced with levels 9 – 1. To be considered to have gained a “good pass” you will need to achieve a level 5. A “standard pass” is a Level 4.**

The assessment structure for this course is as follows:

- **Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of total mark).**
- **1 hour 45 minutes written exam**

The aim of this paper is to engage students in a creative text and inspire them to write creatively themselves by:

- in section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers
- in section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

- **Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of total mark).**
- **1 hour 45 minutes written exam**

The aim of this paper is to develop students' insights into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think and live our lives. It will encourage students to demonstrate their skills by:

- in section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader
- in section B, producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A.

**Spoken endorsement.** (Does not count towards the GCSE but is a compulsory requirement of the course of study.) The aim of the assessment is to allow students to demonstrate their speaking and listening skills by:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>giving a presentation in a formal context</li><li>responding appropriately to questions and to feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification</li><li>using spoken Standard English.</li></ul> <p>Students must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic of no more than 10 minutes. The topic is at the candidate’s discretion.</p> <p><b><i>N.B. There is only one level of entry for this qualification and it is possible for candidates to achieve a level 9 (equivalent to an old A* grade) in the exams they will be sitting.</i></b></p>				
<b>Start Date</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	Monday 18.30 – 21.00	<b>Venue</b>	Online via Zoom
<b>Tutor Details</b>					
<b>No. of wks</b>	30 (approx)	<b>Terms</b>	3		
<b>Fee</b>	<b>FREE*</b> /£750 <small>See eligibility criteria below</small>	<b>Concessionary Fee</b>	<b>FREE*</b> /£582 <small>See eligibility criteria below</small>		
<b>Course Level:</b>	Mixed ability				
	Level 1, Level 2 (equiv. to GCSE / NVQ2)			X	
	Level 3 Equivalent GCE A Level				
<b>Skills or qualifications needed for entry into the class</b>			<p>Willingness to learn, commitment, enthusiasm and creativity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b><i>PLEASE NOTE: All learners are expected to be IT literate i.e. able to send emails, use the internet and word-process.</i></b></li></ul> <p>We welcome applicants from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area, unfortunately we cannot accept applications from those who live further afield.</p>		
<b>Course aims &amp; objectives</b>					
<p>By the end of the course, and with the help of hard work and commitment, learners should be in a strong position to achieve a level 5 or higher in the final examinations.</p>					

A variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including digital learning materials and mock exams. Learners will be involved in various group activities from whole class to paired work and will have the opportunity to contribute by way of discussions and presentations.

In addition to the work covered in class, there will be compulsory independent learning set each week, which must be completed by the deadline specified in order to meet the 120 hour teaching/learning requirement.

### **Progression – after this course what might you do next?**

A GCSE Level 5 or higher will open up a variety of job and training opportunities for successful learners.

### **How progress & success will be recorded**

To succeed, learners must attend and participate fully in the weekly taught session (minimum of 85% attendance). In addition, learners must complete the independent study work which will be set each week. ***The independent learning is a compulsory part of the course and must be completed by the deadline each week as it makes up the required guide learning hours (GLH) needed to complete a GCSE. Persistent failure to complete this work will be treated in the same way as persistent absence from the taught session and may lead to the withdrawal of SFA funding for the learner. Learners must complete a minimum of 85% of the GLH.***

A variety of assessment methods will be used that provide personalised feedback and progress targets together with essays and mock-exam tasks. Each learner will have their progress and success monitored and recorded on a regular basis. An individual learning plan will be completed during each lesson.

### **Additional course costs (e.g. visits, materials, books, equipment)**

**This course will be taught online using Zoom, therefore you will need access to equipment that can run this program. You must be present and available during the lessons of this course and communicate fully with your tutor and learners.**

**You will be required to attend Comberton Village College to undertake some Saturday sessions in the run up to the exams. All exams are held in person, in Comberton Village College.**

All course materials will be provided by the tutor and will be emailed to all students after each class to support revision and self-study. It is necessary that:

- your email address is able to receive and open PowerPoint presentations which, in some cases, may be quite large.
- you have an A4 folder, A4 pad of paper, pens, pencils and a set of highlighters.
- you have a dictionary and/or thesaurus.

### **Materials/equipment required for first class**

**You must have photographic ID available for the induction and assessment session that will take place before the start date of this course.**

**National Insurance Number**

**Evidence of any prior learning, or certificates**

**Supporting documents for any access arrangement requests**

	An internet enabled device e.g. iPad, laptop, or smartphone A4 pad of lined paper, pens, and highlighters.
<b>Contact for further information</b>	Adult Education: 01223 264721 <a href="mailto:commed@combertonvc.org">commed@combertonvc.org</a>

## Funding

This course is funded through the Adult Education Budget allocated by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) or the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) and part financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) programme. This funding is managed by Cambridgeshire County Council, Adult Learning and Skills.

A short video covering the background of ESF, what it does, how it helps and who benefits is available on the European Union website: <http://ec.europa.eu/esf/home.jsp>

## Eligibility criteria \*

To qualify for a **FREE** place on this course, you must be eligible for us to claim funding to cover the costs. The eligibility criteria are as follows:

- Aged 19 or older on 31 August 2025
- You are a citizen of a country within the European Economic Area (EEA) or other countries determined within the EEA, including those with bilateral agreements such as Switzerland, or have settled status or the Right of Abode in the UK (including Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine)
- You have been ordinarily resident in the EEA or other countries determined within the EEA, including those with bilateral agreements such as Switzerland, for at least the previous 3 years on the first day of learning (this may not apply to Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine)
- You have not yet achieved a level 2 qualification in maths at grade 4 or above
- You must complete an assessment session and enrolment paperwork, to join the course.

## Funding is limited for this course and a high level of attendance is required

If you do not qualify for a free course, then you can attend by paying the relevant fee. We can arrange a payment schedule of instalments for this course.

## Enrolment and Payment

Upon enrolling onto a course, you will receive further information, including an agreement to adhere to regarding the policies and procedures of the College, which include but are not limited to safeguarding and prevent.

We reserve the right to refuse admission or refer learners to alternative appropriate classes on academic grounds if necessary. We reserve the right to withdraw tuition and exam entries in the event of verbal, physical or intimidating behaviour to other learners, tutors or staff.

Please enrol at Comberton Village College for all courses, including those held in Cambourne, Melbourn and online. **Please assume the class is running once payment has been received, unless you hear to the contrary.**

You can contact our office via the following:

By Phone: 01223 264721 – due to limited staff availability, our office is open term time only  
Email: [commed@combertonvc.org](mailto:commed@combertonvc.org)  
Address: Adult Education, Comberton Village College, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, CB23 7DU

Please note we are a cashless school; we currently accept card payments within our office based in Comberton Village College. We accept cheques made payable to The Cam Academy Trust.

Online enrolments can be paid directly in GBP (Sterling) via a secure server over the internet by debit or credit card. Online enrolment will ask for additional information that will enable us to register you, on your chosen course and allocate your payment accordingly.

Secure payment links for courses, can also be sent out via emails or text messages. This process would involve you being notified in advance, of a secure link due to be sent shortly afterwards. If required card payments, in person, can also be taken at the beginning of each term, via a portable payment system.

### **Refunds**

If you choose to withdraw your booking, at least 2 weeks before the start date of a course, a refund will be given, minus a £5 administrative charge. Refunds are only available in the event of course cancellation or early closure from the college.

Classes cancelled by the college due to unforeseen circumstances, will be replaced with an extra class at the end of the course, whenever possible. For comprehensive details, please refer to our fees and refund policy which can be found on our website.

### **Concessionary Fees**

25% discount (excluding materials) is available for those in receipt of JSA/ESA, Universal Credit, Carers Allowance or social care assessment (EHCP, PIP) evidence to be provided. It is also possible to pay by instalments, please ask for details.

### **Equalities statement**

We are fully committed to equality of opportunity and welcome enrolments from all adults aged 19+ (on 31 August 2025). We positively encourage all learners with any concerns about specific needs which might affect their learning to discuss their requirements with us in confidence. We believe that everyone is entitled to learn in an environment that is free from discriminatory behaviour so that we build a community based on mutual trust and respect. We will do our best to ensure that resources and equipment are accessible to all and make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all learners can access activities.

Cambridgeshire County Council, Adult Learning and Skills service supports a wide range of other adult learning opportunities across Cambridgeshire to support adults with the lowest level of qualifications or no qualification at all, and so typically find themselves in lower paid, less secure jobs or unemployed. Search their website [www.cambsals.co.uk](http://www.cambsals.co.uk) for details of all their funded courses.

### **Safeguarding Statement**

Arrangements have been made to make sure that you are safe at our Centres. If you feel you are not safe for any reason, for example through verbal or physical abuse or you have been discriminated against, please tell your tutor or the Centre Manager, who will investigate to ensure your safety.