


<p><b>Course Title</b></p>	<p>GCSE English Language</p> 
<p><b>Course Description</b></p>	<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 in Comberton Village College. There will also be a minimum of 2 hours of guided learning activities per week.</p> <p>During the (approx) 30 weeks of the course, a variety of teaching and learning approaches will be used, including 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-fiction, and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online).</p>

## Course Description

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 usually take place at the end of May/start of June, however, at the present time, exam dates have not been set.**

**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).**
- **1hour 45minutes 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).**
- **1hour 45minutes 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:

- giving a presentation in a formal context

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	21 <sup>st</sup> September 2024	<b>Day &amp; Time</b>	Saturday 10.00 – 12.30	<b>Venue</b>	Comberton Village College
<b>Tutor Details</b>	<p><b>Emily Foster-Hibberd</b> completed her teacher training qualification at the University of Cambridge seven years ago and has worked in two secondary schools since. She has an MEd in Education from Cambridge University, as well as an MA from UCL in nineteenth and twentieth century English Literature. She is a team leader and senior examiner for AQA.</p>				
<b>No. of wks</b>	30 (approx)	<b>Terms</b>	3		
<b>Fee</b>	<b>FREE*</b> /£750 <i>See eligibility criteria below</i>	<b>Concessionary Fee</b>	<b>FREE*</b> /£582 <i>See eligibility criteria below</i>		
<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 with a good understanding of the English Language, both written and spoken..</i></b></li> </ul>			
<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> <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.</p>					

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.

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

**You will be required to attend Comberton Village College to undertake the exams, these cannot be taken online or elsewhere.**

All course materials will be provided by the tutor and maybe 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 at the first class and attend an assessment session before the start date of the course. Please contact or office for further details.**

A4 pad of lined paper, pens, highlighters and a dictionary or thesaurus.

#### **Contact for further information**

Adult Education: 01223 264721  
[commed@combertonvc.org](mailto:commed@combertonvc.org)

## 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 \*

- In order 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 2024
- 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) **AND**
- 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 (does not apply to Afghanistan, Hong Kong and Ukraine)
- you must attend a minimum of 50% of the classes
- you must fully complete an enrolment form
- You must complete an individual learning plan (ILP) on a regular basis (like a diary)
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If you do not meet the eligibility criteria you can still attend the course on payment of the relevant fees.

## Enrolment and Payment

Please enrol at Comberton Village College for all courses, including those in Cambourne, Melbourn and online.

You can contact our office via the following:

By Phone: 01223 264721 – please check our office opening hours

Email: [commed@catrust.co.uk](mailto:commed@catrust.co.uk)

Address: Adult Education, Comberton Village College, Comberton, Cambridgeshire, CB23 7DU

We can currently accept card payments within our office based in Comberton Village College. We accept cash and cheques made payable to The Cam Academy Trust. We will be available in class to collect contactless card payments in person, at the beginning of each term. We can also send out secure payment requests for fees, via email and text messages. Please note, we no longer accept payments over the telephone.

## Refunds

Refunds are only available if we close a class or you withdraw at least two weeks before the start. In the latter case there is a £5 administrative charge. Classes cancelled by us due to unforeseen circumstances (e.g. tutor illness) will be replaced with an extra class at the end.

## Concessionary Fees

25% discount (excluding materials) is available for those in receipt of JSA/ESA, Universal Credit, Carers Allowance or a 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<sup>st</sup> August 2024). 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 our website [www.cambsals.co.uk](http://www.cambsals.co.uk) for details of all our 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.

### **How we use your data**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-privacy-notice>



CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH  
COMBINED AUTHORITY



Cambridgeshire  
County Council



CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
SKILLS



Education & Skills  
Funding Agency



European Union  
European  
Social Fund