

# The Hemel Hempstead School

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**Headteacher: Neil Hassell BEng (Hons) NPQH FCCT**

**Letter 35**

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **GCSE English Exam Content**

Following the national lockdown last Spring and Summer, the government has worked with exam boards to reform the content of some GCSE subjects. Whilst GCSE English Language remains unchanged, exam boards have communicated changes made to the GCSE English Literature examined content.

Having carefully considered the exam board's response to the Covid19 pandemic, we have decided upon the exam contents as shown in the table below. Many elements of the course content remain as compulsory elements of the Summer 2021 exams, but there are changes to the spread of content across the two Literature exams, including the sequence of the topics examined, and changes also allow for the examined content to be reduced.

Given the constraints of what we can change, we have decided that the students will be examined on 'An Inspector Calls', and will not now be examined on 'A Christmas Carol'. Both of these set texts were taught in Year 10. This is the only change to the content to be examined, notwithstanding the new sequencing of topics across the two papers.

Students are being encouraged to take note of this new arrangement, and should plan to take account of this change as regards their revision goals. Within school, we are adapting the trial exams scheduled for 2021 to reflect the new examinations, and class content in lessons will also reflect this new arrangement.

It is important to note that the shape and content of the two exams as indicated below is determined in advance of the examination, and so the physical exam papers that will be sent to the school in advance of the exams will only include the questions on the texts as indicated. As such, there will not be the option for any student to use their own initiative to answer on a text that is not included in the table below.

I do know of one student who will be an exception to this arrangement, as he joined the school after we had studied 'An Inspector Calls'. In the case that any other student has a compelling reason to answer on 'A Christmas Carol' rather than 'An Inspector Calls', then I ask that I am made aware of this in writing before 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Mitchell**  
Head of English Faculty

<b>Paper 1</b>
<b>Paper 1A:</b>
Students answer one question on their <b>poetry anthology</b> cluster, 'Power and Conflict'. 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3) Duration: 50 minutes
<b>Paper 1C:</b>
Students answer one question from choice of two on 'An Inspector Calls'. 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3) Duration: 50 minutes
Total duration: 2 x 50 minutes Total marks = 60 (46% of qualification)

<b>Paper 2</b>
<b>Section A:</b>
Students answer one question on 'Macbeth'. 30 marks (AO1, AO2, AO3) + <b>4 marks (AO4)</b>
<b>Section B:</b>
<b>Section B: Compulsory</b> Students answer two questions on unseen poetry. <b>Part 1:</b> Students answer one question on one unseen poem. 24 marks (AO1, AO2) + <b>4 marks (AO4)</b> <b>Part 2:</b> Students answer one question comparing the first unseen poem with a second unseen poem. 8 marks (AO2)
Total duration: 1 hour 45 minutes Total marks = 70 (54% of qualification)