

English GCSE Retakes – also called Resits

- In KS5, The English and Media Studies Department offer a GCSE retake course with a strong focus on English Language exam skills and functional English. Students are given the opportunity to retake in November and, if unsuccessful, again in June and are offered support to help them achieve grade 4 or above.
- We follow the Sixth Form 996 principle to support the development of students' independence at A Level.
- We continue to use Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time with the Sixth Form in order to teach them critical and self-evaluation skills.
- Regular assessment, both in class and through independent study, help to ensure that students have a secure knowledge of the course content and examination requirements.
- Although previous HTS students will studied AQA in year 11 in 2024, in Year 12 they will adapt to the current Edexcel Pearson exam board as this has been our successful Retakes exam board choice in recent years. The two exam boards follow similar formats so the skills will be easily transferred.

What to expect from the English GCSE Retakes – also called Resits

At HTS, we have chosen to use Edexcel for those students that still need to gain their pass (a Grade 4 minimum) at English GCSE. It is important to note that the students will be required to complete a Spoken Language Endorsement which will be sent to the examining board for assessment. This is done even if the students have previously achieved a Pass, Merit or Distinction in this element before taking up this course.

These are the reasons why we chose Pearson Edexcel GCSE English Language 2.0...

The following information has been taken from the Pearson website:

This qualification is about offering a new and different opportunity for students that empowers them and gives them the skills needed for their chosen future pathway.

Edexcel Lift 2.0 promises to benefit students:

- by offering a functional, engaging GCSE suitable for students studying GCSE English Language as a standalone qualification and not with GCSE English Literature

- by providing assessments using non-fiction 19th-century texts that are functional with relevant contemporary themes
 - by exploring engaging and contemporary fiction texts
 - by assessing real-world applicable writing tasks
 - by providing equal weighting of papers and assessment time
 - by assessment of evaluation exclusively in Paper 1, on non-fiction texts.
- This also provides a clear and coherent structure : the qualification has a straightforward structure and content, assessed through two externally-examined papers. There is the availability of continuous progression because all students will read a wide range of texts fluently and with good understanding. The students will also read critically and use knowledge gained from wider reading to inform and improve their own writing.

They will learn to:

- write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- use grammar correctly, punctuate and spell accurately
- acquire and apply a wide vocabulary alongside knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language
- listen to and understand spoken language, and use spoken Standard English effectively. Diversity and inclusion – our qualification is designed to reflect the diversity of the learners taking it.

Texts under this examination have been chosen with an awareness of diversity, this includes gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic background.

More information about the GCSE Retakes can be found here on the Edexcel Pearson website:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/English%20Language/2021/specification-and-sample-assessment/9781446966709-gcse-2021-l12-eng-lang-2-0.pdf>