**Advanced Higher English**

**Criteria and Expectations**

Pupils who have achieved an A – C grade at Higher are given the opportunity to attempt work of an Advanced Higher level, but this is carefully monitored throughout the year in order to support pupils and their future career options.

Although the course has some similar elements to that of Higher, pupils must be prepared for a noticeable increase to both workload and the quality expected at this level. A greater degree of sophistication of language skills both in terms of identification and application is required. Lessons are based more on a tutorial format and there is the expectation that pupils are willing to discuss and debate on a frequent basis. There is a noticeable increase in the approach to the course in terms of the independent learning required and the ability to take skills learnt over the Senior Phase and apply them in new contexts.

Our presentation policy for Advanced Higher is made on an individual pupil basis and decisions concerning final levels at made at various points in the year depending on specific circumstances.

Advanced Higher English is a valuable subject to support applications for Further Education. However, pupils should be clear that studying at this level makes it a specialist subject and that an appreciation and understanding of literature and its relevant techniques is required. Personal reading of both fiction and non-fiction is highly recommended to aid study.

We take into account: work ethic, homework submission, ability to meet deadlines, quality of work produced, attendance and evidence of independent study and revision. These elements are used along with assessment results to determine continuation with the course.

**Skills**

The Course provides flexibility, personalisation and choice to enable learners to achieve in different ways. Learners will develop their reading skills by reading as widely as possible in pursuit of their own interests and enthusiasms. In doing so, they will gain enrichment and comparative insights.

Through the successful completion of this Course, important transferable skills are developed. These skills include: analysing and evaluating a range of complex literary texts, and developing an independence of thought while taking account of the opinions of others.

The ability to analyse and evaluate complex and sophisticated texts, and apply highly developed thinking and communication skills, are important in a number of professions and degree programmes.

**Assessments**

Component 1 — Question paper: Literary Study 20 marks

Component 2 — Question paper: Textual Analysis 20 marks

Component 3 — Portfolio–writing 30 marks

Component 4 — Project–dissertation 30 marks

**Total marks 100 marks**

**Component 1 — question paper (Literary Study)**

The purpose of this question paper is to assess candidates’ ability to apply the skills of critical analysis and evaluation to previously studied literary texts.

 Candidates will choose one question from a range of questions and write a critical essay in response to it.

 Candidates will select from poetry, prose, prose non-fiction or drama. This will have 20 marks (20% of the total mark).

The texts chosen must not be the same as those used in the dissertation.

**Component 2 — question paper (Textual Analysis)**

The purpose of this question paper is to assess candidates’ ability to apply the skills of critical analysis and evaluation to an unseen literary text.

 Candidates will choose one question on an unseen literary text and write an extended critical analysis of it.

 Candidates will select from poetry, prose, prose non- fiction or drama. This will have 20 marks (20% of the total mark).

The candidates are free to select the same genre in each question paper.

**Component 3 — portfolio–writing**

This portfolio will give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

 writing in different genres for a range of purposes and audiences

Candidates will produce two pieces of writing for two different purposes and audiences. The writing can be from any of the following types:

 persuasive  informative  argumentative  personal/reflective  poetry  prose fiction  drama

There is no requirement to write both creatively and discursively.

This Component will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark). Up to 15 marks will be awarded for each piece of writing selected for the portfolio.

**Component 4 — project–dissertation**

This dissertation will give candidates an opportunity to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

 independent planning, research and presentation of their knowledge and understanding of an aspect or aspects of literature

The text(s) chosen must not be the same as those used in the Literary Study question paper.

The dissertation will be between 2,500 and 3,000 words long and will have 30 marks (30% of the total mark). The word count should be submitted with the dissertation. If the word count exceeds the maximum by more than 10%, a penalty will be applied.