



Grade 8 English Newsletter

We, the English teachers: Miss Lilian Khalaf (Main teacher), Miss Amjaad Al-sha'baan (Main teacher) and Mrs. Ghadeer Batarseh (Novel Teacher), would like to welcome our grade 8 students, wish all of you a fruitful year.

This newsletter aims to keep both the parents and students more informed about all the material that will be covered during this year (2025-2026), so you will know as a parent what to expect from the English teacher, and what is expected from the students.

As you know, our English classes target various skills throughout several books, which we will briefly discuss below.

1. Students books:

Students have 3 books for this year: Student book (Main book), grammar book and successful writing book. The students' books would mostly be kept with them, as for the remaining two books, we prefer that students leave them in the classroom unless they have a homework or assessment related to one of them, then they can take them home.

- For each semester, students will need one classwork copybook.

2. **Comprehension:**

In order to improve the students' comprehension skills to be prepared for the checkpoint assessment, students will be doing a comprehension practice in class - using checkpoint past papers.

To strengthen students' comprehension skills in preparation for this year's Checkpoint exam, they are expected to complete one comprehension past paper at home each week. The answers will then be shared with students on LMS.

3. **Grammar:**

During this year, students will study various grammar topics and will be able to practice each topic through: worksheets + online and grammar book exercises. Worksheets will be used to check students' progression; therefore, students are advised to study every new material once it is covered by the teacher.

4. **Writing:**

Students will be introduced to different writing topics and will be given a practice on each topic in the classroom.

5. **Listening:**

Students will take several listening assessments throughout the semester; the assessments are all summative (graded).

6. **Speaking:**

The approach of doing speaking assessments would be different, as the students will not need to prepare at home. Students will be given the speaking topic in class, they will be given enough time to prepare ideas and after that they are given the chance to speak and present in front of the class all in the same day.

7. **Novel:**

The primary novel booklet, titled "*Introduction to Literature*," will be studied over the course of the semesters. It contains a variety of texts, each accompanied by related questions. Moreover, one play will be covered for this year (King Lear). Each week students will be assigned what chapters they should read at home (on LMS). Then, we will discuss and analyze them during class. Students should expect to be evaluated through short quizzes in class based only on their reading and general understanding. **Therefore, it is essential that your child read before**

coming to school as there will be no time for them to read in class. King Lear Novel is the subject project for the students. Students are expected to read it at home and prepare a monthly presentation.

8. Grades and Assessments:

For **regular assessments**, after finishing any text and vocabulary, grammar or writing topic, students will take two tests related to the topic, (Formative and Summative). **The formative assessment** is a test to check their understanding of the topic, and will be made during class upon finishing the topic, and therefore it is not graded. As for the **Summative assessment**, it takes place after the students get back their formative feedback, and students will be informed of the test ahead of time and therefore it is graded.

Grading Structure:

The total mark for the English subject is **100**, distributed as follows:

- **First Month (20 Marks):**

The grade is based on summative assessments focused mainly on reading comprehension and writing. During this period, we will concentrate on strengthening these two core skills by revising nearly all writing topics and actively working through multiple past papers in preparation for the **Checkpoint exam**, scheduled for **October**.

- **Second Month (20 Marks):**

This month's grade will reflect performance across all four language skills: reading comprehension, writing, listening, and speaking. The combined results will be calculated out of 20 marks.

- **Third Month (20 Marks):**

The grade includes the results of regular summative assessments in all four skills. Additionally, a portion of the mark will be awarded based on student behavior and classroom participation. Students who demonstrate consistent effort and engagement may receive bonus points.

- **Final Assessment (40 Marks):**

The final exam will also assess the four language skills through summative evaluations, with the total grade calculated out of 40 marks.

Important notes:

1. The Lower Secondary Checkpoint Assessment will be held on the **October, 2025**.
- **Note: Once the date is set, students will be notified on LSM.**
2. The material in the main books will be taught after the first month as it will be a revision for checkpoint material only.
3. Please note that any assessment and homework will be assigned on **LMS Assignments**.
4. Not all the writing practices will be corrected by the teacher as some of them will be discussed in class and evaluated.
5. The material, study slides and worksheets of each topic will also be uploaded as a reference on **LMS Resources** as soon as the topic is fully covered in class.
6. Please note that any behavioral or neglectance issues regarding a student such as missed homework, or not having the book more than once, the parents will be directly notified **through LMS**.
7. Therefore, please note that in case any parent needs to contact or inform the teacher of anything, they should do so by sending the teacher a formal email or taking an appointment through the administration.

I hope this newsletter has answered most of your inquiries regarding the English subject, and has given you a clearer insight into what and how students work in the English classroom. Knowing that our cooperation as parents and teachers is a key element in achieving great results.

**“Success is the sum of small efforts,
repeated day in and day out.”**

– Robert Collier

Best of luck!

