

Secondary English Guidance

The beauty of CENTURY is that it is powered by students. If your students are using it, they are learning. This document is designed to help you make the most out of CENTURY in your setting.

CENTURY English courses have been designed to teach students a range of English skills. Our courses cover both English Language and Literature to GCSE and include exam board-specific courses.

English Language

- Our SPaG courses are designed to be used by students independently, with the teacher setting nuggets as appropriate. Once students have completed a diagnostic, they can study appropriate nuggets in their pathway. The Secondary SPaG course develops the skills learnt in primary school. The GCSE SPaG course is targeted at higher level GCSE students to cement a deeper understanding of grammar and to encourage the use of more sophisticated grammatical structures.
- Our Language courses give students access to a range of reading and writing skills and expose students to model answers demonstrating these skills in practice. As with any course on CENTURY, students who complete a diagnostic will be directed to appropriate nuggets in their pathway. The Secondary Language course is aimed at KS3 students, laying the groundwork for skills needed at GCSE.
- You are able to choose between a generic or an exam board-specific GCSE Language course.
- Our KS3 Reading course exposes students to a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts followed by comprehension and analysis questions. It covers different purposes of writing such as descriptive writing, narrative writing, persuasive writing, personal writing, writing to inform and advise, and travel writing. It covers different forms of writing including autobiography, biography, interviews, diary entries, speeches, articles and reviews. These can be used as a weekly homework task set through the 'Planner' or students can complete one per week according to their pathway in order to practise comprehension and analysis skills.

English Literature

- Our literature courses cover a selection of GCSE texts, focusing on plot, key events, characters, themes, context, language, structure and form.
- TOP TIP: If you assign a whole literature course (e.g. Shakespeare's Macbeth) to a class before they have studied the whole text in class, there might be some spoilers in the nuggets that appear. It might therefore be best to assign the course **after** they have studied the full text in class. Alternatively, the teacher could set relevant nuggets as 'assignments' as they go to avoid spoilers or confusion. This gives the teacher more control over what a student sees and when.
- Assignments can be shared between teachers easily, particularly if the department adopts a naming convention which helps teachers to identify assignments, for example "Romeo and Juliet - Key scenes from Act 2".

- Do not unassign a text that students are studying as nuggets will be suggested to them throughout the year to ensure they are revising the text.
- Some nuggets can also be used at KS3. You can tailor courses to remove nuggets that are not relevant to KS3 students. For example, our Shakespeare courses contain both an overview of each act and detailed nuggets on every scene. You may wish to remove the nuggets that go into great detail in favour of the overviews in order to cover the plot more quickly and in less detail. Your CENTURY account manager can provide you with resources on how to edit courses.
- Our Unseen Poetry course contains a large bank of unseen poems commissioned and written exclusively for CENTURY. It teaches the skills students need to analyse and compare unseen poems as well as providing practice exam style questions.

Homework

- CENTURY can be used for homework in KS3 and KS4. As our nuggets are self-marking, teachers can monitor homework using the timestamp feature in the 'Markbook'.
- Set up to three nuggets per week. Alternatively, teachers could direct students to work through their 'Recommended Pathway' for a specified amount of time (e.g. 30 minutes per week).
- By setting a policy of a certain amount of time on homework, work is differentiated. Some students may complete three nuggets in that time, others five.
- Teachers can set appropriate nuggets through the 'Planner', allow our intelligent system to set work or a combination of both.

Flipped/ Pre-Learning

- Nuggets can be set at the beginning of a lesson or for homework to assess the class' understanding of a topic. This works particularly well for literature texts which may have been taught earlier in the academic year.

Catch up/ Support Groups/ Interventions

CENTURY can be used to support students who arrive in year 7 below the expected standards. Our KS2 English courses can be modified, renamed (to boost confidence) and assigned to these students to support their reading and grammar skills.

- Primary Reading – Years 5 & 6
 - 'Diagnostic: Identifying Detail' and 'Diagnostic: Inference 1' can be useful for initial assessment of students working below the expected standard. This course can be set by a teacher or a teaching assistant for a group of students in a nurture class.
- Primary SPaG – Years 5 & 6
 - This course can be edited to focus on key areas of grammar. The advantage of this over a KS3 course is that the nuggets are shorter, and the questions are easier. Nuggets can be assigned as independent homework for a nurture group.