

## GCSE English Language - Spoken Language Endorsement

### What do you need to know?

- Entries for GCSE English Language automatically include the endorsement.
- It will not contribute to your GCSE grade. The endorsement is reported separately on the certificate with either a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Not Classified. Those who do not reach the Pass standard are recorded as 'Not Classified'.
- You can choose not to complete the endorsement. If you don't you will receive a 'Not Classified' result.
- All examination centres accepting entries for GCSE English Language have to give candidates the opportunity to do the endorsement.
- Candidates must undertake a prepared spoken presentation on a specific topic. As a guide, the duration of the whole assessment should be no more than ten minutes. An audio-visual recording will be taken.
- The endorsement is assessed by centres.
- Candidates do need to achieve a 9-1 grade in GCSE English Language or the endorsement can't be awarded.
- Candidates that pass the endorsement but do not achieve the grade they desire for the GCSE can carry the endorsement over when resitting the written exams. This means you won't have to complete the endorsement a second time after having already passed. This can be done as many times as you wish during the life of the specification.
- Candidates that pass the endorsement but do not achieve the grade they desire for the GCSE can carry the endorsement over when resitting the written exams - even if it was awarded by a different awarding organisation. This means they won't have to complete the endorsement a second time after having already passed. This can be done as many times as they wish during the life of the specification.
- If a candidate has two or more previous non-examination assessment marks, the most recent non-absent mark will be used, even if this is a lower mark. If a candidate retakes, rather than carries forward, a non-examination assessment the new mark will be used even if this is a lower mark.

### Do I need to do it?

Although NEC would always advise you to complete the endorsement, it isn't essential to complete it in order to get your GCSE. However, failing to pass the endorsement could affect any future further education applications. It is essential that you speak with them in good time to find out what they require. If there is any uncertainty regarding the need for the endorsement, we would advise you to go ahead and complete it. If you discover you need it in the future you would have to re-sit the whole qualification. It can't just be added on.

If you decide not to do the endorsement and enter through one of our partnership centres you will need to sign a statement to say that you have been given the opportunity to complete the endorsement but have decided against it. You should also be prepared to do this if you are entering at a private centre.

### **Can I do the endorsement through one of the NEC partnership exam centres?**

Yes! Our centres in Bolton, Brighouse (West Yorkshire), Coventry, Fareham, London (Wimbledon) and Oxford can enter you for GCSE English and accommodate the endorsement.

### **What do I need to do to enter at one of these centres?**

The application form and guidance is available to download on [learn@nec](mailto:learn@nec). All you need to do is complete this application form before the advertised deadline and we will arrange the rest.

### **How much will it cost?**

A fee of £50 will apply. This is in addition to the exam entry fee for GCSE English.

### **When will I complete the endorsement?**

The endorsement will happen before the official exam session starts in mid May. Although each centre works differently, you should expect to attend during April/early May. Your centre will confirm the date at the earliest opportunity.

### **Can I enter at a private centre?**

Yes. Centres that offer GCSE English Language are also required to make the endorsement available and the head of centre will need to sign a statement to say that they have done this. Remember to get confirmation that you can do the endorsement along with the exams and also ask for the full fees.

### **Where can I sit my written exams if I don't want to do the endorsement?**

You can sit your written exams at **any** of our partnership exam centres. Alternatively you can go through a private centre as long as they have given you the opportunity to complete the endorsement.