



Key Stage Three English - Unit Overview

Year 9 – Summer term – ‘Spoken Language and communication’

Enrichment – ‘Diversity’

- Resources – available in J drive (WE resources. 2025)



Unit rationale	In this unit, students will develop their spoken language and communication skills through the exploration of persuasive speaking and argument. Students will learn how effective speakers use the Aristotelian Triad (ethos, pathos and logos) to influence audiences and construct compelling arguments. Through discussion, debate and presentation activities, students will build confidence in expressing and defending viewpoints while developing the ability to listen, respond and challenge ideas thoughtfully. The unit focuses on crafting arguments for effect and equipping students with the communication skills needed for both academic success and wider life. Extended Reading: i. Exposure to a range of speeches, debates, articles and opinion pieces. ii. Exploring how speakers and writers use ethos, pathos and logos to persuade audiences. iii. Analysing viewpoints and perspectives on a range of contemporary and topical issues. iv. Exploring how language is used to construct and strengthen an argument. v. Revisiting and further developing core reading strategies, including inference, analysis and evaluation. Writing Opportunities: vi. Crafting persuasive arguments for a range of audiences and purposes. vii. Developing the use of appositives, rhetorical devices and ambitious vocabulary to strengthen communication. viii. Learning how to construct balanced arguments through the inclusion of evidence, reasoning and counter arguments. ix. Exploring how language choices and structural features can be used to maximise impact and influence audiences. x. Opportunities to plan and write speeches, debate points and persuasive responses. xi. Focus on improving clarity, accuracy and effectiveness through editing and redrafting.
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	xii. Opportunity to produce an extended persuasive speech on a topic of personal interest. Oracy Skills: xiii. Developing physical, linguistic, cognitive and social communication skills through structured discussion and debate. xiv. Building confidence in presenting ideas clearly and persuasively to a range of audiences. xv. Developing active listening skills and responding appropriately to alternative viewpoints. xvi. Learning to build and develop arguments through evidence, explanation and counter arguments. xvii. Practising formal debating skills, including rebuttal, questioning and evaluation of opposing perspectives. GCSE Links: The unit supports Year 9 transition priorities by reinforcing and further developing the skills needed to be successful at GCSE.	
Possible texts	- Malala – Education first - MLK – I have a dream - Winston Churchill – We shall fight them on the beaches	
Assessment Peer-assessment	Unit outcome: Warm task: Spoken language endorsement mock examination to take place in Year 9 in preparation for their exam in Year 10.	Informal assessment and low-stakes testing: • Students to self and peer assess a range of short writing tasks with the emphasis on re-drafting for effect • Success criteria to be made available by teachers. Students must engage with this, redrafting their work on a regular basis
Core skills	1. Crafting persuasive arguments through the effective use of ethos, pathos and logos, alongside evidence, reasoning and counter-arguments. 2. Developing spoken communication skills by presenting, debating and responding confidently to a range of viewpoints and audiences. 3. Analysing and using language for impact through rhetorical devices, appositives and purposeful language choices to influence and engage audiences.	
Key questions for the unit	• What is the Aristotelian triad? • How do I create an effective counter argument?	

	• What makes a successful speech?	
Key vocabulary	<u>Unit vocabulary – tier 2 vocabulary</u> - Tone - Political - Contradiction - Rhetoric - Dialect - Colloquial - Expression - Persuasive - Coherent - Cohesion	<u>Unit terminology:</u> 1. Ethos 2. Pathos 3. Logos 4. Dialect vs Accent 5. Sociolect 6. Rhetoric 7. Homophone 8. Homonym 9. Homograph 10. Idiolect