



BHS COURSE COMPARISON GUIDE

ENGLISH 9 & HONORS ENGLISH 9

English

Course Descriptions

English 9

This course focuses on the foundational skills of English Language Arts: reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students will gain proficiency in reading both nonfiction and fiction texts; along with a variety of poetry, short stories, and essays, full-length works may include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Of Mice and Men*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. Writing instruction emphasizes the writing process, organizational patterns, idea development, and grammar conventions.

Students will practice writing well-developed paragraphs and multi-paragraph essays. Writing modes include narrative, argument, synthesis, and literary analysis. Vocabulary instruction emphasizes word parts and usage. Teachers may choose a thematic focus for the year. Summer reading is a requirement.

English 9 students who traditionally perform well...

- ◆ Have reading skills currently at grade level, with a developing sense of comprehension, working toward analyzing ideas at a deeper level with some assistance.
- ◆ Are most successful when they receive teacher assistance in implementing a writing process, including brainstorming, determining the purpose, audience, mode, content, structure, organization and style.
- ◆ Occasionally require teacher / peer assistance when brainstorming and generating ideas
- ◆ Follow through on completing nightly reading and homework (assigned most days but not every night)
- ◆ Prepare for and participate in class discussion with teacher guidance.
- ◆ Occasionally need teacher assistance to execute tasks.
- ◆ Occasionally need teacher direction to elicit interest in problems and questions.

H. English 9

Students entering this course should have a solid foundation in the English Language Arts skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. It is recommended that students are reading at or above grade level and have a solid grasp of writing conventions.

This course is recommended for students wishing to take Advanced Placement English in grades 11 and 12. Reading assignments focus on critical reading and analysis of increasingly complex nonfiction and fiction. Along with a variety of poetry, short stories, and essays, full-length works may include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Of Mice and Men*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Antigone*, or other texts of merit. Writing instruction emphasizes the writing process, development of voice and style, sophistication of ideas, and grammatical correctness. Each quarter focuses on a major essay: narrative, argument, synthesis, and literary analysis. Teachers may choose a thematic focus for the year. Students are required to complete two texts for summer reading.

H. English 9 students also...

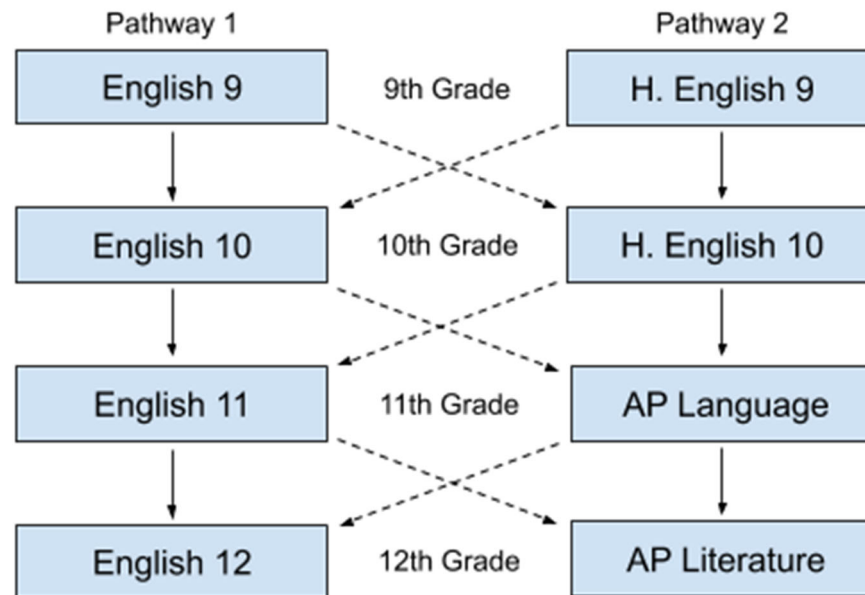
- ◆ already show an ability to read critically for a sustained period of time, typically (but not always) those who are avid readers
- ◆ are willing to work productively and participate in small, group discussions with other students in the class on a regular basis and come to class with questions and discussion points about the reading assignment
- ◆ have already developed strong reading comprehension and analysis skills (synthesizing content)
- ◆ are committed to an increased amount of reading each day, including additional extended assignments that require independence
- ◆ are already working independently following through on a writing process (brainstorming, determining the purpose, audience, mode, content, structure, organization and style). The writing reflects a clear purpose and structure
- ◆ are intellectually curious and willing / able to identify interesting questions and problems independently

ENGLISH REQUIREMENTS & COURSE PROGRESSION

English Requirements for Graduation

Four credits of English are required for graduation. However, students attending the Career Center must earn three credits in English (the appropriate year courses in grades 9 and 10 at BHS and in grade 11 at the participating Career Center).

Students should expect to read and write frequently. All courses assist students with skills to help them do well on standardized tests, such as the SAT and ACT, and prepare them for real-world writing tasks.



From a student's perspective...

Honors (English 9) is a very good option for students who (earn) average grades or higher. It is somewhat of a challenge at first but it is very manageable as long as you following through on the daily readings and assignments. - Bexley Student (freshmen)