

ENGLISH 1, 2, & 3 Recommended Course of Study

1. Download the PASS English textbooks from the links provided. There are 4 textbooks total, for English 1 – 4, but they can be completed over a three year period.

2. Set up a course of study for working from the textbooks and daily “free” reading of both fiction and non-fiction works. Be sure to include a wide selection of genres and topics, such as biographies, historical novels, poetry, classic literature, scientific studies, and more. The library is an invaluable source here.

3. Four novels/plays should be studied in depth each year, with one quarter (9 weeks) devoted to each book. If possible, students should choose one of Shakespeare's works in addition to three more novels. Use the Literature Guides resources for study materials on the chosen novels. These guides provide activities, lessons, and comprehension questions/quizzes. (Optional: Book reports may be required.)

4. Students should also devote time to the video lessons listed in the Literature and Reading section, and visit the other websites for more information on poetry, short stories, and literature according to this schedule:

- Freshmen should focus on the poetry videos and websites.
- Sophomores should concentrate on the “What Makes a Good Short Story” and “Elements of a Story” websites.
- Juniors should focus on the “Literary Visions” and “Invitation to World Literature” websites.

5. In addition, students should study the following:

- Freshman students should spend time once a week studying World Mythology.
- Sophomore students should spend time once a week studying Middle English.
- Juniors should spend time once a week studying Old English. (This study pattern is chronologically backwards due to the difficulty of Old English.)

6. Finally, time should be spent on reading comprehension practice/quizzes before the final exams are administered.

7. Use the following course guidelines:

YEAR:	GRAMMAR	SPELLING	VOCABULARY	ESSAY WRITING	FICTION WRITING	TESTING
Freshman	daily drills	20 words per week	20 words per week	6 essays/ 1 semester	Poetry writing/ 1 semester	9 th grade exams
Sophomore	daily drills	20 words per week	20 words per week	6 essays/ 1 semester	Short story writing/1 semester	10 th grade exams
Junior	daily drills	20 words per week	20 words per week	N/A	Novel writing – full year	11 th grade exams

GRAMMAR:

Daily grammar drills should be conducted to learn/improve skills. Several resources are provided.

SPELLING:

Using provided word lists, student should study 20 words per week, ending with a spelling test. Misspelled words should be added to the following week's list.

VOCABULARY:

Using the resources provided, student should study 20 vocabulary words per week, ending with a quiz. Main focus should be on SAT vocabulary lists.

ESSAY WRITING:

First semester freshman and sophomore students should complete 6 essays, one of each kind listed in the sources section. This may be done as 1 essay every 3 weeks, or the time allowed may reflect the difficulty of the essay assigned. (Narrative essays should/will involve less work than argumentative essays.) Essay writing for juniors is set aside for a full year devoted to writing a novel. (Senior year has a separate Essay and Thesis writing course.)

FICTION WRITING:

Second semester freshmen will focus their creative writing on poetry. Students should write 1 poem per week, with no more than 3 poems in any one style over the course of the semester.

Second semester sophomores will focus their creative writing on short stories. Students should write 3 short stories. These stories should vary in type or genre, such as a fable, an anecdote, a humorous or satirical story, or a mystery.

Juniors will devote the entire year to the writing of a novel. The National Novel Writing Month's young writer's high school workbook should be completed as part of this process.

TESTING:

Students should complete each year of study with one or more of the appropriate final or End-of-Course exams.

Study Journals should include copies of spelling and vocabulary words studied, any grammar quiz results, all essays and fictional writings, and test results. In addition, work devoted to the novel/Shakespeare studies should be included, as well as a reading log of all free reading materials.