

## How are High School English Grades Computed?

### ***Components of the Quarter Grade***

Grades are computed at the end of the quarter by using a cumulative average of the percentages achieved in four areas of individual performance in English class. These four areas of focus are as follows:

- **Literature** – An in depth study of both classic and popular literature.
  - **Composition** – Instruction designed to teach a variety of written applications and styles.
  - **Grammar** – A practical study of the structure and usage of the English language.
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- **Literature (Study Guide)** – Students receive two scores for study guide each week. The first score is from a quiz based on the reading assigned, and the second score is based on participation in study guide group as questions are answered that are part of the lesson. Exposing students to great novels as well as addressing the ideas they illuminate from a Christian perspective is the purpose of this focus area.
  - **Literature Final Exam** – Students receive a score based on their performance on their literature final exam. Exams vary with grade level and may require students to recall facts about the story, identify elements of plot structure, define literary terms, or do an analysis of themes covered in the novel.
  - **Literature Book Report (A Book)** – Students must complete a book report on a second literature book, and pass a content quiz for that novel.
  - **Composition** – Students are scored on their compositions based on specific criteria laid out in check sheets. A point value is assigned to each composition or portion thereof. Students lose points if deadlines are not met, or if writing criteria are not followed. Topics for composition vary throughout the year and are meant to teach students be able to write effectively for a variety of audiences and situations.
  - **Grammar** – Grammar differs by grade level. All students have a goal for the number of grammar lessons that must be completed each week. Freshman and sophomore students work in a foundational grammar program. They also have a quarterly goal for learning Greek and Latin word roots. Juniors complete lessons in a program designed to prepare them for the grammar questions they will encounter on the SAT. They must identify correct and wrong answers and explain the reasoning behind each answer. Seniors complete a computer-based grammar program designed to review all high school grammar concepts. A senior's grammar grade is based on a challenging pre-established quantity of lessons that they must complete with a score of 95% or above.

### **How English Grades are Calculated**

Each area of focus, besides the 'A' Book, is worth 25 percent of the student's quarterly grade. Values for each area are calculated by dividing the number of points the student received in that area by the amount of points that were possible to get a percentage. The four percentage grades are added together and divided by four to calculate a grade for that quarter for that student.

For example:

Student 'X' received these point values for the first quarter of the year:

<b>Study Guide</b>	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Literature Final</b>
87	211	19	90

These points are divided by the points possible in each of these areas to produce a percentage:

<b>Study Guide</b>	<b>Composition</b>	<b>Grammar</b>	<b>Literature Final</b>
87%	92%	90%	90%

These grades are totaled and divided by four to get an average percentage between all areas:

$$\begin{array}{r} 87 \\ 92 \\ 90 \\ + \underline{90} \\ 359 / 4 = 90\% \end{array}$$

Quarterly grades are calculated based on this percentage as follows:

- 100-99%      A+
- 98-92%      A
- 91-90%      A-
- 89-88%      B+
- 87-82%      B
- 81-80%      B-
- 79-78%      C+
- 77-72%      C
- 71-70%      C-
- 69-68%      D+
- 67-62%      D
- 61-60%      D-
- 59% below    F

After the quarterly grade is calculated, if the student has passed his/her 'A' book report, there are no changes; however, if the student has not passed a book report, the grade drops a full letter grade.

### **Semester Grades**

Semester grades are based on an averaging of the percentage score from both quarters. This average is translated into a grade based on the following:

- 90-100%      A
- 89-80%      B
- 79-70%      C
- 69-60%      D
- 59% below    F