



A Level English Language and Literature

Key contacts: Mrs Pitcher (Director of English)

Exam Board: AQA

Overview of the course:

English Language and Literature A Level is a course for those of you who enjoy reading a range of literary and non-literary texts. As well as this you will become more technically assured in your understanding of complex terminology, writer's intentions in a range of contexts and the power of language over time; in addition, you will explore the control of language, including creative writing. It is a qualification which proves to the outside world that you can communicate successfully, coherently and with technical craftsmanship. At the end of the course you will have studied texts, and written, extensively, in a variety of styles and genres. The texts studied over the two year course will include topics to develop your understanding of English Language and Literature.

The NEA is an exciting feature of this course as you decide which texts (one literary and one non-literary) you would like to investigate. You choose the theme that you will explore and investigate how specific features of language, syntax and grammar, are used by writers to explore themes and/or topics. i.e. racial discrimination, mental health or dialect, to name a few.

What will you study?

Over the two years, you will look at the way language and form shape the way we view a text. You will learn new high-level linguistic methods and theories and apply this knowledge to a range of inspirational texts such as '*The Handmaid's Tale*' and poetry by Robert Browning. Alongside your studies of literary heritage texts, you will have a collection of short pieces bound together in a themed anthology. The anthology includes an eclectic range of non-literary texts, such as memoirs, adverts, Online forums, transcripts and travel guides, all centred around the theme of 'Paris'. Ooh la-la!

Alongside this, there is an exciting opportunity to investigate the texts, themes and genres you love; you will complete a literature and language investigation which is worth 20% of your mark. You will also undertake study of texts that reflect society – *The Kite Runner* and a study of the drama text, *A Streetcar Named Desire* is a popular choice. Look out for exciting extra-curricular trips and workshops running throughout the year.

The well tried Language and Literature formula of using great literary texts to stimulate both essay and creative responses has proved most successful over a number of years, with lively groups of up to sixty students per annum achieving very highly on all measurable fronts. You will find yourself in lessons where the teacher is only one voice amongst many, and that's the way we like it.

Assessment

Assessment is 80% Exam (two papers) and 20% NEA (Non Exam Assessment).

Possible Career Path?

You will be able to understand and analyse both written and spoken forms of language. You will gain insight into crafted and spontaneous talk, gaining an understanding of effective and creative communication. Your studies will develop your creative writing skills in many textual forms. The course demands analytical and creative thinking, essential tools in the workplace. Many of our students have gone on to take English degrees in their various guises, including the now common 'creative writing' ones.

English Language and Literature will inspire you across a range of subjects, and has fascinating cross-curricular links with History, Psychology and Sociology to name a few.

The study of Language and Literature will increase your opportunities in the following careers:

- Creative industries
- Journalism
- Technical writing
- Publishing
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Teaching
- Plus many more

Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Mathematics **and** Grade 6 in English Language **and** Grade 5 in English Literature.