



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. The course will enable you to become more technically assured in your understanding of complex terminology, literary theory, 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.

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, form and context shape the way we view a text. You will learn new high-level linguistic and literary methods and theories and apply this knowledge to a range of inspirational literary and non-literary texts.

Paper 1: Telling Stories

The Paris Anthology: This set text 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'. You will analyse how the context of the text affects the way people tell stories about Paris. One of the most interesting parts of this unit is the study of spoken language: analysing how people talk, how conversations work and the methods we use to give our views.

The Handmaid's Tale: Reading this incredible piece of literary heritage is a rite of passage for any literature lover but on this course, you get to analyse in depth the crafting and message within the text. Set in a disturbing dystopian world, Margaret Atwood writes of a future that is actually startlingly similar to our own, exploring themes such as power and corruption, misogyny and female control, freedom and relationships.

Robert Browning poetry: Robert Browning is a master in creating engaging and eccentric personas to tell his stories. In this unit, you will study how he creates these voices and how they impact the meaning of his poems. The poems explore the dark side of the human condition: love and lust, murder and betrayal, death and the afterlife.

Paper 2: Exploring Conflict

The Kite Runner: We read this powerful novel set in Afghanistan, exploring how Khaled Hossieni explore conflict in Afghanistan society through his narrative style and crafting. Your creative task is to take a moment from the book and re-write it from the perspective of another character and then analyse your own literary choices and intended meaning.

A Streetcar Named Desire: In this unit, we explore the tragedy genre and the dramatic conventions that enable Tennessee Williams to explore conflict within communities and families in post war America.

Assessment

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

Possible Career Path?

The course demands effective communication and analytical and creative thinking, essential tools in the workplace. Many of our students have gone on to take English degrees but there are fascinating cross-curricular links with numerous other subjects, such as History, Psychology and Sociology.

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

- Creative industries
- Journalism
- Advertising and 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.