

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE (AQA)

What will I do on the course?

The GCE A Level English Language course provides opportunities to engage critically with a wide range of texts and discourses. The English language is studied both as a medium of communication and as a topic in its own right, with an emphasis on enquiry and analysis.

Lessons involve:

- Group discussion and analysis of both spoken and written texts of a wide variety of genres
- The theoretical study of language use in society
- Opinionated writing
- Independent investigation

Course content

Textual Variations and Representations: Students will be asked to analyse two texts linked by topic or theme. Texts studied in preparation will span a variety of genres, purposes, audiences, modes, times and places. Methods of language analysis will be taught enabling full discussion of meaning, representation and context.

Children's Language Development: This area of study involves the analysis of children's speech and literacy and the application of theory.

Diversity and Change: Within this module, students are to write either an evaluative essay on language diversity or change. Sociolects including occupational groups, gender, regional and national dialects and wider social groups will be studied along with texts dating from 1600 to the present day.

Language Discourses: Students will be asked to analyse how two linked texts use language to present ideas, attitudes and opinions. The chance to create their own opinionated piece is then offered.

Language in Action (NEA): Two pieces of coursework will comprise the folder. Students will research a language area of their choice, collecting the necessary data and analysing and presenting this in an academic report. The second piece involves creating a text that entertains, informs or persuades a particular audience. A commentary accompanies the piece to explain the linguistic choices made.

How will students be assessed?

Two 1 hour 30 minutes papers comprise the AS Level qualification. The full A Level has two 2 hour 30 minutes exams (80% of the A Level) and a Non Examined Assessment (20% of the A Level).

How is this course different to GCSE?

While methods of analysing texts are common to GCSE study, the intricacy of this analysis develops. The sociolinguistic element of the course will be entirely new to students.

What can I do with this course?

The study of language offers a core of analytical methods, topic and skills which have proven value and should inform and supplement many other A Level courses. It will undoubtedly develop the written and spoken skills needed for any career or Higher Education course and will be especially valuable to a career in Law, Teaching, Advertising, Television, Journalism, Public Relations and Sales.

A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE (AQA SPECIFICATION B)

What will I do on the course?

The GCE A Level English Literature course is an interesting and enriching course that places great emphasis on independent study, evaluation and personal critique; it promises to broaden understanding of genre through passage based and traditional essay responses, and introduces the study of critical approach.

Lessons will involve: sharing the enjoyment and appreciation of literary achievement through the discussion of texts. You will be encouraged to become independent thinkers, and should be prepared to read widely in support of your learning.

Course content

Aspects of Tragedy

Students will be introduced to the concept of tragedy through a range of texts that share common features of this tradition, while also offering some interesting variations.

Texts studied include: 'Othello' by William Shakespeare, 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles' by Thomas Hardy, a selection of poetry by Keats, and 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller.

Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

This area of the course will explore a more modern literary genre that is continually evolving. All texts foreground oppression and domination and look at the cultures in which we live and have lived in over time.

Texts studied include: 'The Kite Runner' by Khaled Hosseini, 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' by William Blake.

Theory and Independence - Non Examined Assessment (NEA)

Students will be introduced to the independent study of a wide range of texts and shown how to apply critical ideas with discrimination. One poetry and one prose text will be studied.

How will students be assessed?

Two 1 hour 30 minutes papers comprise the AS Level qualification. The full A Level has one 2 hour 30 minutes paper, one 3 hour paper and an (NEA) for which assessment will be the production of a coursework portfolio of two pieces of work.

How is this course different to GCSE?

Although similar, in that a range of literary texts are studied and analysed, the level of difficulty this course poses is far in excess of GCSE. Students should be capable of independent analysis and a very high standard of written work.

What can I do with this course?

The study of English Literature should inform and supplement many other A Level courses. It will undoubtedly develop those written and spoken skills needed for any career or Higher Education course. It will be especially valuable to a career in Law, Teaching/Lecturing, Advertising, Television, Journalism, Film and Drama, Public Relations and Sales and for degree courses in English, Linguistics, Education, Modern Languages, Psychology, Sociology, Communications, Law, History and Media Studies.