

A Level English Language & Literature

What is English Language & Literature?

Its aim is to enable students to be enthusiastic and analytical lovers of literature, who not only achieve highly, but also find enjoyment and enrichment through reading, research, discussions and critical response. In addition to the literary element, students also get to explore the use of language in non-fiction, and then apply their understanding in 2 short pieces of original fiction and non-fiction writing

Why study English Language & Literature?

Besides having the opportunity to read in depth the major literary works in English, as well as contemporary writing, students will gain many skills useful in a wide range of future professions, including the precision necessary to edit and analyse texts effectively, as well as highly developed powers of argument and persuasion. In addition, students will learn to adapt and control their language to suit a range of forms and purposes.

What makes a successful English Language & Literature student?

A serious love of classic literature and the best of modern literature, a willingness to read round the subject and the self-discipline to undertake independent research outside the classroom. An interest in original writing, fiction and non-fiction from the past and present.

To study this course, what qualifications will I need and in which subjects?

We recommend at least grade 5 in either GCSE in English Literature or English Language but will consider application from any student who is enthusiastic about English. Students will need to be genuinely enthusiastic about Literature, and must enjoy reading a wide range of literature in their own time. Students who do not currently read regularly at home may struggle to make progress on this course.

What is the structure of the course?

Year 12 is focused around reading and enjoying the texts, whilst building the skills needed for the final examinations at the end of Year 13. Text choices are subject to change, but those listed below are representative.

A Level Qualification			
Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing (40%)	Assessment	Component 2: Varieties in Language and Literature (40%)	Assessment
1. <i>Voices in Speech and Writing</i> – an anthology 2. <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> , Williams	A level assessment – Open text examination, 2hr 30 mins	1. <i>Great Expectations</i> by Charles Dickens 2. <i>The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale</i> by Geoffrey Chaucer	A Level Assessment – Open text exam 2hr 30 mins
Coursework (20%)			Assessment
2 pieces of original writing and a commentary based on individual research – totalling around 3500 words.			Assessment – Internal (marked by teachers)

What opportunities are there for me to study beyond the classroom?

In previous years we have attended the English and Media Centre's English Literature Conference in London, as well as enjoying the Sixth Form day at UEA's Festival of Literature for Young People. Arrangements for the coming years are yet to be confirmed.

What kind of career does this subject/qualification prepare me for?

This course is traditionally highly valued by institutes of Higher Education, and deemed an appropriate route for many academic courses. Typically it could lead to careers in Education, Law, the Media, Journalism and Publishing.