

A Level English Language and Literature Awarding Body: Edexcel

Course content

This subject considers how language is used in written and spoken literary and non literary texts. You will examine a variety of speech styles, accents and dialects in spoken texts. Furthermore, you will study how language is constructed for meaning in published traditional and modern texts.

From studying different types of texts and the theories that underpin their construction, you will learn how to create your own fiction and non-fiction texts in a variety of genres for the coursework element of the A Level, worth 20% of the overall qualification.

The course has three components which will lead to the A Level qualification at the end of the two years of study.

Component 1:Voices in Speech and Writing

- Voices in Speech and Writing:An Anthology (copy provided by examination board)
- Drama:A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams.

This component has an explicit focus on the concept of“voice”.You will study how spoken voices are formed and written voices created in literary, non -literary and digital texts.You will develop an understanding of how writers and speakers craft language to present an identity or persona, and will look at connections between texts as well as the significance and influence of context.

This component is examined by a 2½ hour exam paper and is worth 40% of the total A Level.

Component 2:Varieties in Language and Literature

- Society and the Individual: Othello by William Shakespeare;The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- Response to a previously unseen text

You will compare how two different writers explore the same theme through different genres of writing set in very different contexts.You will also apply your accumulated knowledge of how language is constructed to write a commentary of a previously unseen text.

This component is examined by a 2½ hour exam paper and is worth 40% of the total A Level.

Component 3: NEA Coursework: Investigating and Creating Texts

The coursework component has been designed to allow you to demonstrate your skill as a writer: you will craft your own original texts for different audiences and purposes based on research of published writer techniques and the exploration of your own creative ability.

Assignment 1 - two pieces of original writing, one is fiction and the other is non-fiction.

Assignment 2 - an analytical commentary of your texts, reflecting on the writing process

The component is internally assessed and externally moderated. It is worth 20% of the total A Level.

Progression

English Language and Literature compliments most A level subjects and higher education choices for university. It will help you to develop and refine your use and understanding of English language in the real world and in literature. It provides a good foundation for further studies in any communication subjects along with careers in areas such as speech therapy, foreign languages, teaching, journalism and professional writing.

Entry Requirements

GCSE grade 5 or above in English Language and in English Literature.