

A-Level

English Language & Literature

EXAM BOARD: AQA

What does the course cover?

It approaches language and literature in a combined way, using a linguistic approach. We analyse a range of literary and non-literary texts – including many that are spoken and multi-modal (i.e. using sound and images). There is a very strong element of written exploration, through creative writing and commentary.

Example close level analysis questions:

- Examine how Shelley presents Frankenstein in this extract.
- Examine how Stoker presents Dracula in this extract.
- Examine how Atwood presents the Commander's house in this extract.
- Examine how Sebald presents the interaction between George Harvey and Jack Salmon in this extract.
- Compare and contrast how the relationships between the people in these poems are presented.
- Compare and contrast how places are presented in these poems.
- Compare and contrast how time is presented in these poems.
- Compare and contrast how childhood is presented in these poems.
- Compare and contrast how the writers and speakers in these extracts present Paris.

What skills will the course help you develop?

Close reading of texts, focusing on specific language and style features. The ability to explain this, through analytical writing, but also the ability to identify and use key language features, in your own writing.

How is the course assessed?

The A-Level is comprised predominantly of examinations at the end of the course (80%), but there is also a small coursework element (20%).

What are the entry requirements?

Students wishing to study English Language & Literature should have 5 GCSEs A*-C with a minimum of grade 5s in both English Language and English Literature. Students choosing this subject have a love of reading and are confident independent readers. Additionally, students will need to have been successful in essay-based subjects they have studied and enjoy writing.

What do students who study this course go on to do?

Students who study this course have gone on to study a wide range of subjects at university, from sciences to arts subjects. This subject is widely applicable to many different areas, such as teaching, law, medicine and the study of the arts and humanities more widely.

Who is the staff contact for English Language & Literature?

Ms Pollard is the Head of Department. English Language & Literature teachers include Dr Sutton, Mrs Whitley, Ms Cooke, Ms Hoyles and Mr Howard.