

English Language and Literature

Level: A Level

Awarding Body: Edexcel

Specification details: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-language-and-literature-2015.html>

Entry Requirements

Sixth Form entry requirements as well as a grade 5 or above in English Language and English Literature.

Course Content:

This subject involves the integrated study of the English language in speech and writing. You will examine a variety of speech styles, accents and dialects, as well as a range of written texts, from Renaissance texts to contemporary texts. These texts, along with your own creative writing, will be analysed in detail using systematic frameworks. You will also study the theories which have arisen from the different uses of language and literature studied on the course.

Course Structure

This course focuses on the critical reading of a wide range of texts from poetry and a wide variety of prose. It also includes analysis of the spoken and written texts looking specifically at how language is used and meaning is created. The course has three components and all of these will lead to the A Level qualification at the end of the two years of study.

Component 1: Voices in Speech and Writing

In Component 1 you will study *Voices in Speech and Writing: An Anthology* (a copy of this will be provided to all students) and one drama text, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by 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

You will study the theme of Society and the Individual through *Othello* by William Shakespeare and *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. In addition to the study of two literary texts within a theme, you will be expected to read widely across a range of non-fiction genres in preparation for responding to an unseen extract in section A of the examination. You will explore and evaluate the ways in which writers convey similar themes and issues in different texts. The two studied texts will be assessed in section B of the examination.

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

NEA Coursework: Investigating and Creating Texts

The coursework component has been designed to allow you to demonstrate your skill as a writer and you will craft your own original texts for different audiences and purposes. The coursework consists of two sections. Assignment 1 will include two pieces of original writing where one is fiction and the other is non-fiction. The final section is an analytical commentary reflecting on the studied texts and the pieces of writing that they have produced.

Unit 2 focuses on the preparation of a coursework folder which will comprise of two pieces of original writing where one is fiction and the other is non-fiction. The final section is a commentary where you will explain the linguistic techniques you have used in your writing.

Each piece in the folder will be approximately 1000 words and the total word count should not exceed 3250 words.

The coursework unit is internally assessed and externally moderated and is worth 20% of the total A2 level.

Teaching and Learning Methods

A wide variety of teaching and learning methods are used on the course. These include lots of whole class discussion and debate - it is expected that everyone contributes to debates; pair/small group activities, perhaps preceding class debate or leading to formal presentations or written work; student-led lessons where you teach an aspect of the text to the class and the teacher will guide discussion; group work annotating texts; note taking and mind mapping to support your study of the text.

Skills and Commitment

A Level English lessons will be based mainly around studying set texts for examination. Students will be expected to take part in group discussions and to put forward their ideas regarding these texts. They may also be asked to produce presentations on key sections, either individually or as a group. Students will be expected to undertake personal research and reading during their study time in order to prepare them for future lessons. As with English at GCSE, the form of assessment will be through written work.

Cost

Students will also be expected to buy the novels and study guides needed for study throughout the course. The anthology will be provided by the exam board.

Progression

English Language complements most A level subjects. It will help you to develop and refine your use and understanding of English, as of language in general. Widely accepted in Higher Education, it provides a sound foundation for further studies and careers in areas such as speech therapy, foreign languages, teaching and journalism.

Contact

For further information please contact Mrs L Stewart or Miss S Trickey.