



English Language & Literature A Level

Why Study English Language & Literature?

If you're passionate about literature, writing or the language we use, this A Level is for you! We explore a wide variety of literary and non-fiction texts including texts in different modes and time periods, examining how writers and speakers use language to craft their work. For coursework, you will pursue your own reading interests to write a comparative essay on two texts. The course also gives you the opportunity to produce your own original writing, both fiction and non-fiction.

The course

During the course, we will study an anthology of non-fiction and spoken texts, from different time periods. You could study plays such as *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams or Shakespeare's *Othello*, poetry by Carol Ann Duffy or William Blake, and novels such as *Atonement* by Ian McEwan, *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald or *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. You will also study two coursework texts, one of which is a free choice and the other is currently *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* by Jeanette Winterson. During your studies, you will develop a variety of strategies for reading and learn how to devise, draft and edit your own writing. You will also develop skills in evaluating and constructing effective narrative techniques.

Other aspects of the course include:

- > Taking part in discussions and presentations, in pairs and larger groups
- > Writing essays and other assignments
- > Seeing productions or dramatised extracts of texts on video
- > Wherever appropriate, we will organise trips to theatre performances, revision conferences and exhibitions

Career and Progression Opportunities

An English Language & Literature A Level is valued by universities and employers because it shows your ability to analyse and compare the language of a range of texts in detail, to adapt your writing for different audiences and purposes, and to evaluate the success of your own work. It is an excellent basis for degrees such as English, Journalism, Media, Communication Studies and Law, as well as any job where the ability to understand and communicate effectively is valued.

