

A-level English Language-Literature

Board and Specification: OCR H474

Head of Department: Ms. C. Haines (c.haines@cwlc.email)

KS5 Co-ordinator: Ms K. Barham (k.barham@cwlc.email)

Subject specific entry requirements:

- Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and a Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature.

What skills are required of students?

- Writing creatively - students will focus on developing their own voice as a writer.
- Analysing writing styles and patterns of set texts and applying knowledge in both analytical and creative responses.
- Independent reading and research skills, along with the ability to critically analyse challenging texts.
- The ability to learn, understand and apply linguistic and literary terminology when analysing texts.
- Students should be able to work independently on their own coursework, with guidance from their teachers.

Course Outline

English Language-Literature A-level is a fantastic opportunity for students with a love of English and a passion for creative writing. Over the two years, you will learn how to use linguistic analysis to explore and understand a range of non-fiction texts, such as spoken language transcripts and also extracts of travel writing, diaries and articles. However, the course does not only focus on analysing and responding to modern texts. Students will also study and explore classic texts, such as 'The Great Gatsby' and also 'A Streetcar Named Desire.'

Another element of the A-level Language-Literature course is the opportunity to write creatively. This is a chance for students to develop as writers and find their own individual voice. Students get the opportunity to hone both their writing of fiction and non-fiction as part of the assessment for the course.

In terms of assessment, all students will sit three exams at the end of the two-year A-level course. These exams are worth 80% of the final A-level grade. The remaining 20% of the overall grade is made up of the non-examined assessment module where students complete two pieces of coursework. This is an exciting opportunity for students to choose a particular area of language study to focus on and compare in both a non-literary and literary text.

Course overview

A level Language-Literature is a linear, two year course which means you study the four components below throughout the two years and then take your exams at the end of Year 13:

Component 1 exam:

Component 1 focuses on the OCR Anthology of twenty non-fiction spoken and written texts taken from different time periods and contexts. This component involves the comparative and contextual study of texts taken from the anthology and other unseen texts.

Component 2 exam:

Component 2 focuses on one poetry collection by William Blake and one drama text ('A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams).

This component involves the exploration of the two texts through stylistic and dramatic analysis.

Component 3 exam:

Component 3 focuses on exploring the nature of narrative in one prose fiction text - 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

Part B (Writing as a Reader) develops the understanding of narrative technique through a creative writing task of 500 words and a commentary analysing how the creative piece has been structured and created (250 words).

Component 4 NEA – coursework:

The coursework element is split into two tasks and both offer opportunities for independent study which allows learners to pursue particular interests and develop their expertise as writers.

The first part is an analytical comparative essay on a set text from a list of twelve non-fiction texts and a second text which students are able to choose themselves. One of the texts must be written post-2000.

The second element of the coursework is a piece of original non-fiction writing. The original writing could take the form of a piece of travel writing; a memoir; a speech or any other text from the non-fiction genre. The range of text types studied for Component 1 will give students inspiration for some of the different kinds of non-fiction texts they could decide to produce for their coursework.

What kinds of work will you do in class and at home?

Research and reading

Essay writing and language analysis

Learning language terminology

Exam practice

Writing notes about set texts

Discussion

What other A-levels does this subject connect well with?

English Language-Literature A level connects well with a range of other subjects. As the course requires students to think about how language is used within society, English Language-Literature links particularly well with both Sociology and Psychology A-levels. Also, as the course connects texts to their social and historical context, A-levels in History and Philosophy also link well with the course content. A-level English Language-Literature is highly respected by all universities as students who have studied the A-level will have developed precise analytical skills and the ability to think independently and creatively. English graduates go on to work in many different fields, such as publishing, law, editing, journalism or any other career which requires an analytical mind and a flair for creativity!

What types of university course will be helped by this A-level?

English Literature, English and Creative Writing, Psychology, Sociology, History, Education Studies, Journalism, Linguistics and Drama.