



# A-level English Language-Literature

Board and Specification: **AQA 7707**

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## Subject specific entry requirements:

Grade 6 in GCSE English Language and/or GCSE English Literature.

## What skills are required of students?

- Writing creatively in response to a text which has been studied - students will focus on developing their own voice as a writer.
- Independent reading and research skills, along with the ability to critically analyse challenging texts.
- The ability to learn, understand and apply linguistic 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. 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 which students always enjoy is where they have the opportunity to write creatively in response to one of their set texts, in this case, 'The Great Gatsby.' This is a chance for students to develop as writers and find their own individual voice.

In terms of assessment, all students will sit two 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 their 'Making Connections' coursework. This is an exciting opportunity for students to choose a particular area of language study to focus on and compare in both non-literary and literary texts.

## **Module titles and codes:**

### **Paper 1: Telling Stories: assessed through examination**

Students will study three texts: the AQA Paris Anthology; the prose text 'The Handmaid's Tale' and a selection of poetry written by Carol Ann Duffy.

Written exam: 3 hours, open book in Section B and C only, 100 marks, worth 40% of A-level

### **Paper 2: Exploring Conflict: assessed through examination**

Students will write a creative piece in response to a particular extract from 'The Great Gatsby' and then a critical commentary which evaluates their writing. Students will also study the play 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and explore how the theme of conflict is represented through writing an analytical essay.

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes, open book, 100 marks, Worth 40% of A-level

### **Non-examined assessment: Making Connections: Language Investigation**

This is the coursework element of the A-level: now referred to as the non-examined assessment. This coursework is an individual investigation where students explore how a specific technique or theme is represented in both a literary and non-literary text. For example, students might decide to compare the speech features used within a transcript of spoken language with the use of dialogue within a novel.

Extended essay: assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA, 2500-3000 words in length, 50 marks, worth 20% of A-level

## **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 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 English Language-Literature.

A-level English Language-Literature is highly respected by all universities as students who have studied this 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.