

A Level English Language and Literature

Examination Board: AQA

Specification Code: 7707 – A Level

Why English Language and Literature?

This course focuses on the close analysis of language, examining the choices we make when we write or speak. Not only will you study great works of literature, you will also study non-fiction texts, learning more about the types of language we use every day: the anthology which features in this course includes such diverse non-fiction texts as web pages, transcripts of speech and passages from autobiographies. This wide-ranging exploration of language is what gives English Language and Literature a unique character distinct from English Literature. The course is designed to equip you with the skills to see how language manipulates people's feelings, opinions and responses. It also gives you the chance to write creatively and to be able to analyse your own writing. There is also an analytical coursework module which helps you to develop as an independent learner.

Entry Requirements

QEHS standard entry requirements apply and in addition students are also required to achieve at least two grade 6 passes at English Language and English Literature.

Course Content

(Both exam papers are worth 40% of the A Level)

For Paper 1, Section A, you will be asked to compare two texts from an anthology of non-fiction texts on Paris. One of the texts is named, but you will be expected to select an appropriate text with which to compare it. For Section B, you will be given a passage from *Dracula* to analyse and to discuss in relation to the whole text. For Section C, you will be given a named poem by Heaney and asked to select an appropriate one with which to compare it. For Paper 2, Section A, you will be given a passage from *The Great Gatsby* to re-create from a different perspective. This will test your creative skills. You will also be asked to write a commentary to explain your decisions. For Section B, you will be given a passage from *Othello* to analyse and to discuss in relation to the whole text.

Coursework: (Worth 20%) involves comparing the way a theme, chosen by you, is explored in fiction with the way it is explored in speech or non-fiction texts.

How does the learning differ from Pre-16 study?

You will be expected to read widely during the two years of your course. This will be independent reading and, whilst you will be given a suggested reading list, your commitment to reading should go beyond this. You will be expected to contribute to high order discussions on texts, research, prepare and deliver presentations, develop sophisticated essay writing techniques and analyse texts with insight and enthusiasm.

Prospects

English occupies a central position in our education system and is welcomed and valued by a wide range of higher education courses. Careers in media, journalism, advertising and publishing are obvious English-based opportunities, but good communication skills are needed in most walks of life.

Contacts

Please contact Mrs. C. Deighton, Assistant Head of English, if you wish to discuss this qualification further.