

A Level English Language and Literature

What does Language and Literature mean?

Exactly what it says: on this course you study both in an integrated approach which allows students to deepen their understanding of both subject areas to enrich their overall experience of English. This course adopts a more linguistic approach to reading literature texts – looking at dialogue, style and crafting across poetry, drama and prose.

What texts do we cover on the course?

Year 12 – Imagined Worlds, Poetic Voices and Remembered Places

- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- Poetry Anthology by Carol Ann Duffy, the first female Poet Laureate
- Non Fiction Anthology on the theme of Paris and Parisian life

Year 13 – Conflict in Society

- *The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams

Is there coursework?

Coursework makes up 20% of this course. You research, investigate and analyse two texts of your choice: one literary (a novel, play or collection of poetry) and compare this to a non-literary texts (a speech, an autobiography etc.) Previous titles selected by students have been:

- The Blame Game: An exploration into fictional vs factual representations of a mother's guilt and blame in *We Need to Talk About Kevin* and *A Mother's Reckoning*.
- Then and Now: An exploration into the representation of women across time from the 1930s to modern day in *The Colour Purple* and Michelle Obama's *New Hampshire Speech*.
- Never Surrender: An exploration into the way bravery, loyalty and sacrifice are portrayed in both World War One and World War Two texts, focusing on *Up the Line to Death* and the war speeches of Winston Churchill.
- An exploration into the representation of women's education and patriarchal ownership in *Pygmalion* and *The Vindication of the Rights of Women*.

What skills and interests do you need for this course?

- ✓ An interest in adopting a more precise, technical and analytical approach to exploring language in literature texts.
- ✓ An enjoyment of reading poetry, prose and drama.
- ✓ A keenness to use aspects of a writer's style in your own creative writing
- ✓ The ability to reflect upon your own writing, whether that is creative or analytical work.

What do students say about the course?

Elliot:

English Language and Literature challenged me to see multiple viewpoint when analysing something in front of me, and allowed me to appreciate that sometimes there's not always one answer; I enjoyed how open that could be and how could you debate your own interpretation of things.

Chloe:

Through studying English Language and Literature at A Level I have developed my essay writing skills and learned how to make my writing detailed and concise. I have enjoyed studying novels, poems and a play by trying to interpret how the writer crafted their ideas and further meanings behind them through language.