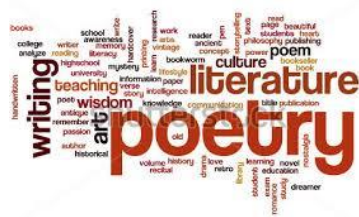


# A Level English Language and Literature FAQs



## **What's the difference between A Level English Language and Literature and A Level English Literature?**

Both subjects are essay-based. Unlike English Lit, A level English Language and Literature has a creative writing element that you will either find very attractive or potentially off-putting. In addition, you will only study fictional texts for the A Level Literature course while English Lang. and Lit. requires the analysis of both fictional and non-fictional material. It can be challenging to develop an analytical framework for such a wide range of 'texts', but it is perhaps the very variety of the combined A level also that makes it appealing for students.

## **Is this a one or two-year course?**

Students take the two-year A Level course – we don't offer the one year AS Level.

## **Will I enjoy the course?**

You will enjoy it if...

- You have a genuine interest in reading and writing about a range of literary and non-literary texts from different genres.
- You have an inquiring mind
- You like discussing texts in small groups or as a class.
- You find writing analytical essays easy / rewarding.
- If you haven't got a grade 6 or higher in English / English Lit at GCSE you may find you struggle with the demands on your vocabulary and writing, at least at the start of the course.

## **What sort of work is involved in lessons?**

Reading, discussing and writing are key. You will be expected not just to read, but to develop the skill of thinking critically about what you read and of analysing texts to work out how the author's use of situation and language create powerful impressions. You will need to explore your own response to writing and be able to discuss it, in class and through your own writing, and to argue constructively for your point of view.

## **What sort of work is involved outside of lessons?**

You will be expected to think independently and to develop your own voice, and you will be encouraged to expand your knowledge outside of the classroom through reading and through engaging with a wide range of texts. Once per term you will be expected to undertake personal wider reading and keep a record of this.

## **What kind of texts will I study?**

You will study novels, an anthology of poetry, a drama text and an anthology of fiction and non-fiction texts. Example texts from previous years are: 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, poetry by Carol Ann Duffy, 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley, and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams.

## **What is the creative writing component of the course?**

In Yr13 you will study a novel for the Paper 2 exam. You will need to respond creatively to this novel – for example, rewrite a scene from the perspective of another character.

## **What is the coursework element of the course?**

The coursework element is known as the NEA. It involves independent reading / research and the linking of one literary and one non-literary text in a report-based assignment. NEA counts for 20% of your A Level grade.

**What can you do with an English Language and Literature A Level?**

It is quite possible to study this subject and end up reading English Literature at degree level (but do check university entrance requirements). On the other hand, A level English Language and Literature is perfect preparation for degree courses in English Language or Linguistics. The subject leads naturally into all degree courses in the Humanities and is a particularly attractive option for those interested in Journalism or Creative Writing courses.

**Is there a textbook that can support the learning of this course?**

Yes here is a link:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Level-English-Language-Literature-Student/dp/1107465664>

**What is the exam board for A level English Language and Literature?**

AQA and the link to their website is:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707/subject-content-a-level>

**If you have any further queries, please contact Miss R Cohen (English Key Stage 5 Manager):**

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