



English Language and Literature

Course overview

Would you love to study, consider, analyse, evaluate...?

- Compare and contrast how the writers of TEXT A and TEXT B express their ideas about travelling around Paris. (Langlit Paper 1)
- Examine how Duffy presents attitudes towards particular places in 'Stafford Afternoons' and ONE other poem of your choice. (Langlit Paper 1)
- Examine how and why Williams presents characters' feelings of anger in 'A Streetcar Named Desire' (Langlit Paper 2)
- Recast the base text into an account that Walt gives to a family member about this visit. (Langlit Paper 2)

- Explore the significance of marriage to the tragedy of 'Othello'. (Lit Paper 1)
- "In tragic texts although the villains are far from good, they are not evil." To what extent do you agree with this view in relation to TWO texts you have studied? (Lit Paper 1)
- 'Atkinson's novel suggests that the only way to achieve any form of justice is to take it into your own hands.' To what extent do you agree with this view? (Lit Paper 2)
- 'Ophelia is a complete innocent who does not deserve to suffer as she does.' To what extent do you agree with this view? (Lit Paper 2)

A-level English Language and Literature

Key areas of study:

- Exploring point of view and genre in prose fiction – novels in **Paper 1** and **Paper 2**. **Key texts would be ‘The Handmaid’s Tale’, and ‘Into the Wild’ or ‘Frankenstein’ and ‘The Great Gatsby’**
- Voice and identity in poetry – poetry anthology in **Paper 1** **key texts would be the poetry of Carol Ann Duffy**
- Interaction and conflict in drama – key texts would be ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’ / ‘Othello’ in **Paper 2**
- Studying the representation of place in an anthology of non-literary texts (including spoken language, media texts and new technologies) – **Paper 1** (The Paris anthology)
- Students’ own writing through textual intervention work – text transformation in **Paper 2** and the **NEA**

A-level: specification at a glance

Paper 1: Telling Stories	+	Paper 2: Exploring Conflict	+	Non-exam assessment: Making Connections
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 3 hours100 marks40% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes100 marks40% of A-level		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assessed by teachersModerated by AQA50 marks20% of A-level
Questions Section A – Remembered Places <ul style="list-style-type: none">One compulsory question on the <i>AQA Anthology: Paris</i> (40 marks)This section is closed book. Section B – Imagined Worlds <ul style="list-style-type: none">One question from a choice of two on prose set text (35 marks)This section is open book. Section C – Poetic Voices <ul style="list-style-type: none">One question from a choice of two on poetry set text (25 marks)This section is open book.		Questions Section A – Writing about Society <ul style="list-style-type: none">One piece of re-creative writing using set text (25 marks)Critical commentary (30 marks)This section is open book. Section B – Dramatic Encounters <ul style="list-style-type: none">One question from a choice of two on drama set text (45 marks)This section is open book.		Task A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500 - 3,000 words).

Remembered Places: *AQA Anthology: Paris*

What types of non-fiction texts does the Paris Anthology contain?

- Travel memoirs
- Advertisements
- Video travel guides
- Personal narratives
- Autobiographies
- Travel blogs
- Online guides
- Websites – online forums
- Guidebooks
- Newspaper articles
- Pathé news reports
- History books
- Letters
- Conversations.

A-level: how will NEA be assessed?

- A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse
- Students will make connections between a literary text and non-literary material
- Assessed by teachers
- Moderated by AQA
- 50 marks
- 20% of A-level
- 2500 – 3000 words.

For further information and resources, visit [aqa.org.uk/7707](https://www.aqa.org.uk/7707)

NEA: possible options

- Explore a theme or some aspect of representation: this can build on study from exam components in terms of focus.

The representation of travel in a literary text and personal memoirs/travel blogs (eg Bill Bryson, Tim Moore, Paul Smith).

Possible areas of study: dangers of travelling; travelling alone; journeys as self-discovery, as metaphor and in the construction of identity; travel and place, memories, connections with people and so on

- Explore the use of a particular technique/feature.

The nature of storytelling in a literary text and in news reports of serious crimes.

Possible areas of study: why certain events are seen as important to talk about, structure of stories and ways that events are narrated, any focuses on specific people, places and events, the use of speech or other techniques and so on.

A-level English Literature B

Key areas of study:

- focusing on different ways in which texts can be read, connected and written about.
- focusing on reading and writing about texts through the lens of Aspects of tragedy, namely 'Othello', Death of a Salesman and poetry by John Keats – **Paper 1**
- focusing on reading and writing about texts through the lens of Elements of crime writing, through the study of novels and plays – 'Hamlet', 'When will There Be Good News?', Crime Poetry - **Paper 2**
- focusing on independent reading and thinking – for all aspects of the course but in particular the **NEA**
- Focusing on reading through the lens of critical ideas and literary theory for the **NEA**.

A-Level Literature: specification at a glance

<p><u>Component 1:</u> Aspects of tragedy Written Exam Paper 'Othello'; 'DOaS', Keats' poetry</p>	<p>40%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 tasks• 75 marks – 25 marks per task• 2 hours and 30 minutes• closed book
<p><u>Component 2:</u> Elements of crime writing Written Exam Paper 'When will there be Good news?' 'Hamlet' Selection of crime-related poetry</p>	<p>40%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3 tasks• 75 marks – 25 marks per task• 3 hours• open book
<p><u>Component 3:</u> Theory and independence NEA (Coursework) Literary Theory</p>	<p>20%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 tasks, each 1250-1500 words• 50 marks – 25 marks each• Marked by your teachers and then moderated by AQA

Key differences between English Language and Literature and English Literature

1. In Lang and Lit you study an anthology of non-fiction texts for the Paper 1 exam – there is no requirement to analyse non-fiction in the Literature A Level
2. In Lang and Lit Paper 2, there is a creative writing component to the exam where you ‘recreate’ or recast an extract from the novel by re-writing it from another character’s perspective. There is no creative writing aspect to the Literature A Level.
3. In English Literature you will **definitely** study a Shakespeare play – typically ‘Othello’ (one of the best tragedies!) and usually also ‘Hamlet’ for Paper 2 but you may not study Shakespeare in Lang and Lit – it’s a possible text choice.
4. The Literature A Level is more traditional; essay based exams and NEA. The Lang and Lit exams are essay-based but the NEA is a report-style investigation where you find links between a literary and non-literary text – see previous slides more info on the NEA.

Typical Lesson Activities

1. Reading extracts from exam texts and discussing key ideas – individually, in small groups or whole-class.
2. Annotating texts, writing short or longer answer responses to exam-style questions.
3. Group presentations: researching contexts or meanings of texts and presenting these ideas to the class.
4. Studying new approaches to reading and understanding literature. Learning about literary and linguistic theory.
5. Sharing and debating interpretations of texts.
6. Improving revision and essay writing skills.

Requirements for both courses

To be accepted on either English A Level course, you would need **a minimum of a grade 5 in GCSE English Language and a 6 in GCSE English Literature (or vice versa)**. The A Levels are both demanding courses so it is desirable that students achieve two grade 6s at GCSE or higher.

While studying at A Level, there is an expectation that you would undertake **independent wider reading** – you will need to enjoy reading texts (novels, plays, poetry etc.) to enjoy the course.

Students would need to have some time-management skills and the **ability to meet deadlines**.

Essay writing skills will be taught and developed during each A Level course – **English is a heavily essay-based** subject, as you know! If you don't like reading or writing essays, then it's not the right course choice.