SUBJECT LISTED:

- English Language [AS]
- English Language and Literature [AS]
- English Literature [AS]
- English Language [GCSE]
English Language [AS]
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
AS-Level

► What are the main features of this course?

Students will study the following topics:-

• Language Variation
• Language and Gender
• Child Language Acquisition
• Meaning and Representation
• Language Diversity
• Language Discourse
• English Grammar

► Hours of lessons per week: 5

► Indicative group size: 20

► How is the course assessed?

At AS you are assessed by two end of year exams. In paper one you will answer three questions on Language and the Individual. In paper two you will answer two questions on Language Variation. At A level you are assessed by two end of year exams and a 3500 word coursework portfolio.

► Where can I go next?

A qualification in English Language is extremely valuable for training and employment and for admission onto most degree courses. You will develop your written and analytical skills to a high level, which is particularly valuable for jobs within professions such as journalism, publishing, advertising, speech and language therapy, management, law, teaching and business.

Need More Information? Contact:
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What is AS/A Level English Language?

English Language is a fascinating exploration of how language is used to create and manipulate individual and corporate identities in a wide range of contexts. For example, for the topic of Language and Gender, you will be able to research and challenge current views on language and gender in the workplace, politics and children’s literature. In your study of the history of language, you will identify the reasons for lexical and semantic changes.

Studying this A-level could lead you to areas of Law, Politics and Criminology with fast growing areas such as forensic linguistics. In the study of Child Language, there are links with psychology and primary school education as you study the development of literacy and spoken language communication.
SUMMER CHALLENGE

What preparation can I do before I start the course?

- Find out the definitions of the following language terms: audience, mode, field, function, phonology, register, lexis, semantics, syntax, graphology, morphology, orthography.

- Find a newspaper or magazine article which explores a language issue, for example: the growth of text-speak; the influence of the internet on language; language and gender; language and politics; youth sociolect; how children learn. Bring this to your first English lesson.

- Find out what grade you need in A level English Language to enable you to progress onto university or into your chosen career.

HINTS & TIPS

Are there any TV programmes that I might find useful?

- Engage actively with the news on TV, radio and in print. Expand your media consumption; watch things you wouldn’t normally watch!

Are there any websites that I might find useful?


- https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/end-journalism - The visiting professor of Creative Media, Stig Abell delivers a series of lectures about the current trends in reporting media.

- https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/mst-english-language - 4 accessible lectures on the history of language, language and gender, changes in pronunciation, origins and development of the OED.
English Language and Literature [AS]
What are the main features of this course?
This course is about the integrated study of Language and Literature. You will study how English is put together (syntax and grammar), the changes that have taken place in the language over the past 600 years, how we adapt our spoken language depending on who we are with, where we are, and what we are talking about. You will also explore how writers from different centuries express ideas about a range of themes. You will apply your knowledge of grammar and syntax to your readings of plays, novels, autobiographies and poetry. You will study spoken language by looking at spontaneous speech and the language of performance texts. Through individual research and reading, group work and whole class discussion you will develop your oral, reading, writing and thinking skills. We also organise workshops, lectures and visits to theatres, cinemas and other places which will enhance your understanding of the course.

Hours of lessons per week: 5
Indicative group size: 20

How is the course assessed?
At AS-level you will be assessed by two end of year exams. In paper one you will answer one question based on your analysis of two non-fiction texts and one question based on your ability to create a piece of non-fiction. In paper two you will answer one question on your study of a prose text and one question on your study of a poetry text. At A-level you are assessed by three end of year exams and a coursework portfolio.

Where can I go next?
A qualification in English Language and Literature is extremely valuable for training and employment in any field and for admission to any degree course. On this course, you will develop your communication skills to a high level which is particularly valuable for jobs within the professions, such as teaching, management, law and the media.
What can I expect from AS/A Level English Language and Literature?

If you loved your English Language and Literature GCSE, this course is perfect for continuing to develop the skills established on those qualifications. In English Language and Literature, you will be exposed to a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts that will illuminate your understanding of both the past and the modern world. From industrialisation to feminism to semiotics, you will explore a wealth of different approaches in relation to texts including Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby, Blake’s Songs of Innocence and of Experience and OCR’s Anthology of Non-Fiction Texts. You will also learn how to create a diverse range of fiction and non-fiction written texts of your own.

A qualification in English Language and Literature is extremely valuable for training and employment in any field and for admission to most degree courses. It can lead you into careers such as marketing, teaching, broadcasting, journalism, Law and many others.

New Students’ Day 2020

Joseph Chamberlain College
SUMMER CHALLENGE

What preparation can I do before I start the course?

- Read, research and annotate William Blake’s poem The Chimney Sweeper (Innocence), paying close attention to his use of poetic techniques.
- Read and annotate the extract from Captain Scott’s diary, looking at his use of interesting words and phrases: [http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/scott.htm](http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/scott.htm)
- Write a review of a film, game or album that you love. It should both praise and critique the work of choice, and should use metaphorical language to explain it.
- Find out what grade you need in A level English Language and Literature to enable you to progress onto university or into your chosen career.

HINTS & TIPS

- What research can I do in order to prepare for the start of the course? Conduct research around the Romantic Movement in England, the Industrial Revolution and the American Dream.
- Are there any TV programmes that would be useful? Engage actively with the news on TV, radio and in print. Expand your media consumption; watch things you wouldn’t normally watch! This especially means non-fiction texts, such as documentaries, reviews, blogs and articles.
- Are there any websites that I might find useful? Use the British Library and BBC News website to help with research. But the internet is full of interesting non-fiction texts to explore, particularly The Guardian website.
English Literature [AS]
ENGLISH LITERATURE
AS-Level

► What are the main features of this course?
On this course you will study a wide range of texts from different periods and genres: plays, novels, poetry and non-fiction. Through individual research and reading, group work and whole class discussion, you will explore and analyse the texts. How has the writer made you feel anger, pity or amusement? What techniques have been used to create suspense? How did the attitudes and beliefs of the day affect the writers’ works? To help you develop your knowledge and understanding further, we organise drama workshops, lectures with academic experts and visits to theatres, cinemas, museums and other places linked to your course. By the end of the course your oral, reading, writing and thinking skills will have improved significantly through the study of English Literature.

► Hours of lessons per week: 5

► Indicative group size: 20

► How is the course assessed?
At AS you will be assessed by two exams at the end of academic year. Section A of the first exam is a question based on your reading of a play by Shakespeare. Section B of the first exam is a question based on your reading of a pre-1900 poetry collection. Section A from the second exam is based on your reading of a play and consists of one question from a choice of two. Section B is one question based on your reading of a prose text and an unseen passage provided by the exam board. At A-level you will be assessed by two exams and a 2500-3500 word coursework folder. The first exam will be one question based on your reading of a play by Shakespeare and one comparative question based on your reading of a drama text and pre-1900 poetry anthology. The second exam will have one question based on an unseen passage and one comparative question based on your reading of two prose texts.

► Where can I go next?
A qualification in English is extremely valuable for employment in any field and for any Higher Education course. On this course, you will develop your thinking and communication skills to a high level which is particularly valuable for jobs within the professions, such as management, teaching, law and the media.

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What can I expect from AS/A Level English Literature?

In English Literature you will be exposed to a wide range of fiction texts that will illuminate your understanding of both the past and the modern world. Ranging from Shakespeare’s troubled heroes to Carter’s strong heroines, you will explore a wealth of different characters, plots and themes. This will enable you to develop a deeper insight into the human condition. You will study Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’, Williams’ ‘A Streetcar Named Desire’, poetry by Christina Rossetti and Carter’s ‘The Bloody Chamber’.

A qualification in English Literature is extremely valuable and widely respected by employers and universities alike. It signals keen analytical skill and critical thinking, both of which are highly sought after. It can lead you into careers such as marketing, teaching, broadcasting, journalism, Law and many others.
SUMMER CHALLENGE

What preparation can I do before I start the course?

- Research the life and times of the Victorian poet ‘Christina Rossetti’. Read, research and analyse her poems ‘A Birthday’, ‘Maude Clare’ and ‘Remember’.

- Write a reading blog or review of a novel you have read to share with others in the class at the start of term. As one of the themes of the course is gothic literature try and read some gothic texts.

- Find out what grade you need in A level English Literature to enable you to progress onto university or into your chosen career.

HINTS & TIPS

Are there any websites that I might find useful?

- The British library website is very useful and has a wealth of material on gothic: www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/gothic-motifs

- This is a fantastic website for Shakespeare from the RSC with a step-by-step guide through the plot, characters etc and video clips. www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/the-tempest
English Language [GCSE]
What are the main features of this course?

This is a one year course leading to a GCSE in English Language. You will learn new skills to increase your confidence in reading, writing and speaking. You will meet enthusiastic, professional teachers who will be able to advise and guide you in your learning. You will study spoken and written language texts and improve your ability in creative writing. Your class teacher will encourage you to enjoy your reading and to reflect on ideas presented by various authors. You will also get plenty of opportunities to practice your essay writing skills so you can do well in the exam.

Hours of lessons per week: 5

Indicative group size: 20

How is the course assessed?

At GCSE you will be assessed by two exams at the end of the academic year which will test your reading and writing skills.

You will also complete a compulsory Speaking and Listening task; however this does not go towards your final grade.

Where can I go next?

You can progress to Level 3 courses.

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