



English Language and Literature

Why chose English Language and Literature?

Do you ever ask yourself 'What does a writer's use of metaphor or alliteration add to the meaning of a text?' 'How does the speech in a novel differ from everyday conversation?' 'How does a news story manipulate your reaction to the events it describes?' If so, English Language and Literature is a course you will enjoy.

FOR THE FIRST TIME at William Howard School, we are offering the chance to study the combined Language and Literature A Level.

At A level you will be encouraged to develop your knowledge and understanding of linguistic and literary approaches in your reading and interpretation of texts in a range of styles and genres.

You will study a wide range of spoken and written texts from different periods, including a minimum of six substantial texts. At least three of these will be taken from the genres of prose fiction, poetry and/or drama. Of the remaining three, one will be non-literary.

This course differs from those focused primarily on literature by extending its coverage beyond literature to explore differences and similarities between literary texts and others; it differs from those primarily focused on language by bringing the literature and literary discussion into sharper view.

This course offers opportunities for you to develop your subject expertise by engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. Using literary and linguistic concepts and methods, you analyse literary and non-literary texts in a range of modes and genres, in the process gaining insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity.

You will develop skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own processes of production.

This course is the one to choose if you liked both sides of the GCSE course and want the opportunity to do both creative writing, reading a range of texts, analysing language use and learning how to adapt and use language in a range of situations.

So if you would like to enrich your life while gaining a range of highly versatile, transferable skills, then don't miss this opportunity to empower yourself through language.

For further information or advice please contact
english@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk or
esim@williamhoward.cumbria.sch.uk

AQA Specification (7707)
Qualification: A Level

COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

80% Examination 20% Coursework
(note: text choices may be subject to change):

Paper 1: Telling Stories

Section A - Remembered Places
40 marks – closed book

Study of a collection of writing types on the topic of 'Paris'.

Exam will be one question based on language use from a range of texts from the anthology, 'Paris'.

Section B - Imagined Worlds
35 marks - open book.

Study of a set text – one from the following:

- *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley
- *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood

One question from a choice of two on prose set text (35 marks)

Section C - Poetic Voices
25 marks – open book

Study of a selection of Poetry by John Donne

Written exam: 3 hours

- 100 marks
- 40% of A Level

Paper 2: Exploring Conflict

Section A - Writing about Society:
55 marks – open book

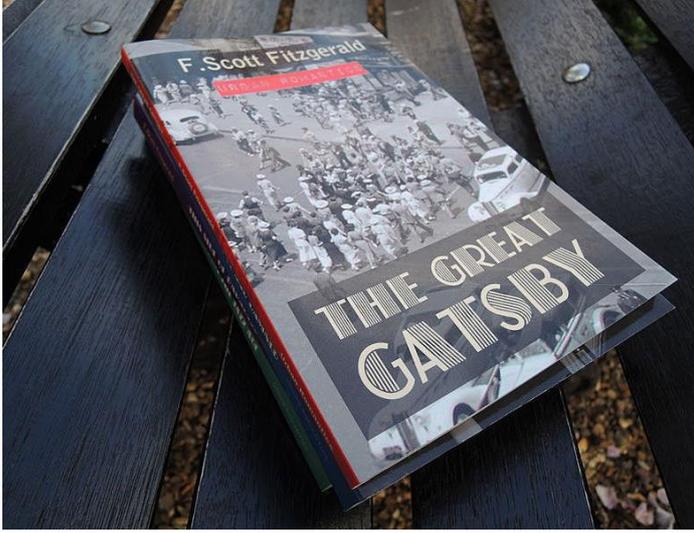
2 questions based on the set text.

- Question 1: Extract given and you need to transform it into another type of writing (creative/transactional writing). 25 marks
- Question 2: Writing a commentary on your text transformation. 30 marks.

Study of a set text – one from the following:

- *The Great Gatsby* – F Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Kite Runner* – Khaled Hosseini

Continued over >



What do I need to start the course?

- You must have enthusiasm for the subject and an interest in exploring how language is used and how and why it has changed over time. You must also have enthusiasm for the subject and an interest in reading.
- There is a need to read a wide range of texts, so a willingness and interest in reading beyond your comfort zone of genres is necessary, as is the need to do wider reading to explore critical thought and interpretations.
- To study this course you will need to have achieved five GCSEs at Grade 6 or above, which need to include English, Maths and Science. You will need to have a grade 6 or above in either English Literature or English Language - preferably both.
- You need to be self-disciplined as some of the course requires individual study and work with strict deadlines.

What will I learn on this course?

- the study of a literary theme over time
- the study of literature through engaging with two of the main historic perspectives: diachronic (reading texts written across widely different time periods that explore the same theme) and synchronic (reading texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period)
- the study of various texts, both singly and comparatively, chosen from a list of core set texts and a list of chosen comparative set texts.
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.
- analysing, expressing opinions and justifying comments on texts.
- explore language use and how to use language.
- Phonetics, phonology and prosodics: how speech sounds and effects are articulated and analysed.
- Lexis and semantics: the vocabulary of English, including social and historical variation.

Section B - Dramatic encounters:

45 marks - open book.

Study of a set text – *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.

One question from a choice of two on drama set text (35 marks)

Written exam: 2 hours 30 minutes

- 100 marks
- 40% of A Level

Unit 3 Coursework: Making Connections

A personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500–3,000 words)

- 50 marks
- 20% of A Level

assessed by teachers, moderated by AQA

Some example investigations:

- A comparison of openings in a novel and an autobiography.
- An exploration of speech features in literature and in real-world communications.

How a theme is presented in literary and non-literary sources.

What can you do when you have your qualification?

You will learn a wide range of transferable skills: you can extend your analytical skills by continuing to study towards an English/English Literature degree.

English Language and Literature is a rigorous and highly academic A Level that is sought after by all Russell Group universities.

It combines well with History, Psychology, Philosophy, Media, Languages, Drama and Theatre Studies, Politics and/or Sociology.

It is ideal preparation for further study or a career in diverse fields including: Business, Advertising, Marketing, Public Relations, Human Relations, Academia, Journalism, Law and Politics.

The critical thinking, creative skills and development of a formal, professional writing style offered by the subject make it a perfect compliment to arts or science subjects. It will also encourage the critical imagination to flourish.

A Level English Language and Literature is a subject that will open many doors for you.