WHY CHOOSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE AT AS OR A LEVEL?

We cannot avoid communication, whether it’s the daily barrage of information from various platforms, speaking and listening to others or reading subject-specific material in the classroom. It makes perfect sense that understanding how we communicate is one of the key skills we all require. And to excel at it? Well, that would be invaluable. English Language and Literature at AS and A level aims to do exactly that: to help us to learn and understand the various ways in which we communicate through language, from conversational to formal spoken language, and literature, from non-fiction to fiction texts. If you have an interest in the world around you, in reading and writing and communicating, then this is the subject for you.

English Language and Literature is both stimulating and interesting as it allows you a chance to actively engage with texts from different periods and cultures, introduce you to a wide range of spoken and written forms of English and give you an opportunity to express your own ideas through creative writing.

Whether you study AS or A level English Language and Literature, you will have opportunities to develop your creativity, in the ways you think about language and literature and in the ways you enhance your expertise in analysing texts and in discussing and developing ideas.
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

What will I study?

Whether you are studying AS or A level English Language and Literature, your first year will cover the same areas:

- Spoken language
- Poetry
- Prose (literary and non-literary)
- Drama
- Unseen texts
- Critical and creative writing
- Genre study
- Comparing and contrasting texts
- Standard and non-standard English

In the second year of the A level you will develop your understanding of these areas, studying a variety of texts from different periods and giving you a sound foundation in English Language and Literature.

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams at AS, each worth 50% of the qualification. Each exam lasts two hours and will consist of extract-based questions and extended responses.

In addition to the Critical and Creative Study non-exam assessment component at A level there are three exams. One is on poetry, prose and unseen texts, one is on drama and one is on non-literary texts. Again, these are comprised of extract-based questions and extended responses.

What skills will I develop?

English Language and Literature is a great subject to develop a number of transferrable skills for further education, work and life:

- analytical skills
- engaging creatively
- critical thinking
- developing communication skills
- independent study
- research skills
- writing skills
- debating and discussing ideas
- literacy

Careers with English Language and Literature?

Studying English Language and Literature can open the door to an array of career paths such as law, journalism, film/TV production, advertising and marketing, teaching, politics, public relations and publishing.

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