



ENGLISH

A level courses in:
English Language
English Literature



Ashby
**Sixth
Form**



A level

English Language

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE?

English runs through the heart of world politics, finance and the internet; it is understood by almost two billion people around the globe... but did you know that in its early years it was very nearly wiped out?

In the English Language course, you will learn about many aspects of English—where the language comes from and how it has changed, how we acquire language as young children, and how language varies in different contexts. You will study a range of texts from newspaper articles and speeches by Barack Obama to tweets and emoji's. You will also have the opportunity to consider your own use of language and produce your own pieces of creative writing, such as articles and short stories.

In Year 12, you will begin by studying Language and Identity. You will also look at how language is used in different contexts.

On the other side of the course, you will study spoken language features and learn about how children acquire language, understanding the theories and stages of development and how children learn to write.

COURSE PROGRESSION

You will begin your Crafting Language Coursework in the final term of Year 12, completing this in the first term of Year 13. The coursework consists of two pieces of original writing and a commentary.

After revisiting Child Language in Year 13, you will also begin carrying out a language investigation on a prescribed topic, such as gender or power.

You will also study the Language Variation unit. This looks at how individuals use language to create a personal identity. The second part of this unit is learning about how the English language has changed over time and comparing modern texts with texts from the 16th or 17th Century.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Part of the course also involves visiting a primary school to witness first hand how children acquire and use language, as well as opportunities to attend lectures at universities from leading linguists such as David Crystal.

You may also get the opportunity to explore the British Library in London and Samuel Johnson's house—the creator of the first dictionary.

ASSESSMENT for EDEXCEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

EXAM STRUCTURE A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Component 1— Language Variation (35% of the A Level)

- You are given two 21st Century texts and asked to analyse how the individuals use language to create an identity. You are then given two texts from different time periods and asked to analyse how language has changed over time.

Component 2—Child Language (20% of the A Level)

- You will produce a written response analysing an unseen piece of writing by a child and a spoken language transcript.

Component 3— Investigating Language (25% of the A Level)

- You will research a sub-topic from a list of five. In the exam, you answer two questions, analysing an unseen text and then linking it to your own research.

Component 4—Crafting Language (20% of the A Level)

- You will produce two pieces of original writing with a textual commentary to reflect on the choices of your own writing.

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

TO STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE AT A LEVEL, YOU WILL NEED AT LEAST A **GRADE 5** IN YOUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE, AND A **GRADE 5** IN YOUR ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE.





A level

English Literature

WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

If you have a passion for reading and studying works of literature in great detail then this is the course for you. The English Literature course offers students a chance to experience a range of texts, including poetry, prose and drama from different periods throughout history. In the English faculty, we love the texts we teach, and we are confident you will too!

In Year 12, you will begin by studying a thought-provoking collection of poetry by Christina Rossetti.

As well as this, you will study the intriguing story of Stella, Stanley and Blanche in Tennessee Williams' play, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. You will complete your first piece of coursework on this play, analysing a short scene in very close detail.

You will also study Margaret Atwood's famous dystopian novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, exploring the challenging themes of dystopian fiction.

Additionally, you will study William Shakespeare's classic tragedy, *Hamlet*.

THEATRE TRIPS

There is no better way to study and experience a play than by seeing it performed at the theatre.

We run trips to an award winning interpretation of *Hamlet* at the Royal Shakespeare Company, as well as a visit to see *The Duchess of Malfi* by John Webster.

COURSE PROGRESSION

You will start Year 13 by completing your second piece of coursework for English Literature. This coursework consists of a comparison between the fascinating novel, *The God of Small Things* and a choice of three poetry collections.

Following this, you will study more dystopian fiction to accompany *The Handmaid's Tale - The Children of Men* by P.D. James, a story of a world with no children, as well as extracts from *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury and a unit on the famous *1984* by George Orwell.

You will also study *The Duchess of Malfi* by John Webster, considered among the greatest tragedies of English Renaissance drama. This will accompany the study of Christina Rossetti's poetry and *Hamlet*, which are studied in Year 12.

ASSESSMENT for OCR ENGLISH LITERATURE

EXAM STRUCTURE A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE:

Component 1— Drama and Poetry pre-1900 (40% of the A Level)

- You will answer one question on *Hamlet*, analysing an extract and relating it to the whole play. Then you will answer one question comparing the poetry of Christina Rossetti with *The Duchess of Malfi*.

Component 2—Comparative and Contextual Study (40% of the A Level)

- You will answer one question on an unseen prose extract from dystopian fiction, relating it to your knowledge of the genre as a whole. You will then choose one question about the dystopian texts you have studied in class—George Orwell's *1984* or Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Component 3— Literature post-1900 (20% of the A Level)

- You will produce two pieces of coursework; a close and detailed analysis of a scene from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, and a comparative essay drawing links between a novel, *The God of Small Things*, and a choice of collections of poetry.

COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

TO STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE AT A LEVEL, YOU WILL NEED AT LEAST A **GRADE 5** IN YOUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE, AND A **GRADE 5** IN YOUR ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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