

A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE



WHAT IS ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE?

The course integrates the study of both language and literature, underpinned by the idea that the study of each element supports the other. In practice, it is quite difficult to separate the different parts of the course, so we deliver them together.

WHY SHOULD I STUDY ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE?

If you enjoy reading and analysing fiction and nonfiction texts and also wish to continue developing your own writing skills then the combined English course is an excellent choice. It is a natural progression from what you have studied at GCSE level. You will have the opportunity to extend the range of your reading and learn to analyse closely many types of writing. We look at how context, audience and purpose are integral to any piece of writing. You will also study the features of spoken language and explore the ways we interact with each other. You also develop your own non-fiction and creative writing skills.

USEFUL SKILLS & INTERESTS

It is important that you are interested in writing for a variety of purposes and audiences and that you enjoy reading and analysing what you read. You should be willing to extend your reading and be prepared to learn about new aspects of English.

COURSE STRUCTURE & CONTENT

The emphasis in class will be on discussion and active explorations of a variety of texts. We will also help you develop the study skills you need to become an effective, independent student of language and literature, by exploring the issues, which arise from a combined study.

In the first year of the course you will study the following areas:

- Poetry (Rapture by Carol Ann Duffy)
- Drama text (A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams)
- Non-fiction Spoken and Written texts (Anthology)
- Producing fiction texts

In the second year you will continue your study of the above texts and in addition you will study:

- Aspects of Narrative (The Great Gatsby by F.Scott Fitzgerald)
- Independent investigation (Coursework)
- Writing non-fiction texts

In all aspects of the course you will study how the historical, social and literary context influences the texts that you study and closely examine how writers and speakers use language.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed at the end of two years by both examination and a coursework folder.

COURSE COMMITMENT

You will be expected to read widely around the subject and study intensively in your own time. Expect around four hours of homework per week.

COURSE COSTS

The course costs are mainly for set texts, which should be no more than £25 - £30 per year. Often books can be bought from students in the year above you. There will be one off costs for trips, e.g. to the theatre, if you wish to attend them.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

The college requires 5 GCSE passes grades 4 - 9 for entrance onto this course including English Language and English Literature. The jump from GCSE to A Level work can be quite hard, but as long as you bring to the course an enthusiasm for study and are prepared to attend workshops as required by your teacher, you should do well.

PROGRESSION ROUTES

This course provides you with the facility to go on to study English at University or as the basis for many Arts and Humanities courses.

Some of the students who studied this course at Prior Pursglove College progressed on to:

- Aberystwyth University – **English Literature, Drama & Theatre Studies**
- Huddersfield University – **Criminology**
- Newcastle University – **English Language & Literature**
- Newcastle University College – **Acting & Performance Practice**
- Salford University – **Broadcast Journalism**
- University of West of England – **Business & Law**
- York St John University – **English Language & Linguistics**

FURTHER INFORMATION

Full course specifications can be found at www.aqa.org.uk

If you require further information please contact Denise Bichener or Kerry Robson

*Please note that the information in this leaflet is correct at the time of publication, but circumstances may arise which cause us to revise our provision.
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