

# English Language and Literature

## A level - AQA

### Course Leaders: Mrs Perry / Mr Yates

#### What's it all about?

This advanced level English language and literature course offers opportunity for the combined study of linguistics and literature.

The combination of language and literature generates a varied experience of English studies, offering the imaginative student a whole range of creative possibilities. The variety offered by the course also requires the student to adopt a disciplined approach in order to ensure the development of a range of skills.

#### What are the entry requirements?

9 - 5 grades in GCSE English language and English literature

This course would be ideal if you are an imaginative individual interested in exploring the language and gaining useful skills for later life, for example in your future careers or just general life – English is always a good A level to gain. An advanced level in English is also a good indication to future employers that you are able to think creatively and communicate effectively.

Advanced level English is a prerequisite for doing an English degree (so if you are thinking about doing an English degree at university this A-level is crucial for your success). It is also a valuable qualification for a whole range of other degree courses: law, business, marketing, advertising, sociology, film, media, theatre studies, psychology, history, philosophy, theology, anthropology or any degree that leads on to teaching at primary or secondary level.

An A-level in English will be a valuable asset in just about any career, especially where communication is important. Whatever your future plans English is your passport to success!

#### What will I learn on this course?

Our A and AS-level English language and literature specification draws on the academic field of stylistics in order to create an integrated English language and literature course which brings together literary and non-literary discourses. This specification integrates literary and linguistic fields via shared concepts about the way language choices create representations, both in literary and non-literary texts: words create worlds, both in literature and elsewhere.

In the first half of autumn term, you will begin to study in depth your two main literary texts for AS level:

- Imagined worlds – Frankenstein by Mary Shelley.
- Poetic voices – an anthology of 15 poems by Seamus Heaney.

In the second half of the autumn term, you will begin detailed study of an anthology of non-fiction texts on the theme of “Paris”:

- Remembered places – analysis and comparison of non-fiction texts.

From the spring term onwards, you will be deepening your understanding and developing your skills in preparation for the summer examinations. This will involve timed-essays, detailed feedback, improvement tasks and additional revision sessions.

In year two of the course, you will revisit the texts studied in year one and will also have three further areas of study. You will, of course, be fully supported to achieve continued progress and success:

- Non-examined assessment (NEA) – this is the coursework component of the A-level course and provides lots of opportunity for personal choice and independent study. You will begin work on this in the summer term.
- Writing about society – “The Great Gatsby” – a novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald.
- Exploring conflict – “A Streetcar Named Desire” – a play by Tennessee Williams.

To support and supplement your learning in Years 12 and 13 you will also have the opportunity to engage in a number of extra-curricular and enrichment activities. These include becoming a reading mentor, or paired-reading buddy, as well as 1:1 coursework clinics, creative writing group and other English events and activities throughout the year.

For further information on the AQA English Language and Literature specification visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-7706-7707>

## **How will I be assessed?**

- Written examinations (80%) and the NEA/Coursework (20%).

## **What do your current students say?**

'Last year I enjoyed my English lessons so much, so I thought I would try it in sixth form but was unsure if I would feel as passionate about it. But this year I find it even better; we get to do much more exciting activities such as planning our own trips and we are trusted to be set our work and get on with it where we like.'

'I always used to struggle at school but thought I'd give it a go at King Charles Sixth Form. This was the best decision I ever made. I currently study English and I thoroughly enjoy it. From the friendly and lively atmosphere, the fascinating topics we study and will be studying to the creative work that we come up with in groups or individually – I can honestly say I enjoy the lot. It stretches my imagination and creativity and gives me an insight into our Language that I never noticed before.'

## **Is there anything else I need to know?**

You will not just be gaining an A level in this course by taking this subject; you will also be gaining many communication and social skills, the ability to read and interpret sophisticated texts, great student-teacher relationships and much more.

As well as this, it is very important that students take this subject seriously and ensure that they keep up with any work set during lessons or out of hours. Like most things in life, this subject needs to be worked hard at but the rewards you get out of it will more than compensate for this.

We welcome any students who have passed English language and English literature with a grade 5 and above. All we expect is that you are fully committed and actively participate in lessons as well as make the most of the teachers' advice and guidance. We are always willing to give you that extra help and individual tutorials to help you achieve your best. It really is a partnership when you study A level English.

## **Who can I contact for further information?**

If you have any further queries about this subject or anything English related, don't hesitate to contact subject leaders for English language and literature, [myates@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:myates@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk) or [kperry@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:kperry@kingcharles1.worcs.sch.uk)