

English Language and Literature

AS/A Level

AQA (Spec B)

Structure & Specification

Year 1: AS 1726 (2 units, can be taken as an AS Level only)

Year 2: A2 2726 (another 2 units, making up the full A Level)

What does the course include?

Year One- AS

Unit 1 (ELLB1) Introduction to Language and Literary Study (60% of AS; 30% of A level)

The set text for this unit is an anthology of literary and non-literary texts set by the exam board. The theme for the current anthology is 'Travel, Transport and Locomotion'.

Unit 2 (ELLB2) Themes in Language and Literature (40% of AS; 20% of AS level)

For this unit you will study two novels that are linked by genre, one of which is pre-20th century.

2 coursework pieces based on a theme set by the exam board.

1. A close analysis of two extracts from the set texts, dealing with the set theme. (500-800 words)
2. A piece of creative writing based on the set texts and exploring the set theme. (1200-1500 words).

Year Two- A2

Unit 3 (ELLB3) Talk in Life and Literature (30%)

For this unit you will study a set play and a range of other literary extracts, along with transcripts of real speech.

2 hour written examination (closed book)

Question 1 - Based on an extract from the set play

Question 2 – Commentary on unseen texts, comparing real speech with fictional dialogue.

Unit 4 (ELLB4) Text Transformation (20%)

For this unit you will study two texts of different genres from a list of prescribed authors.

Coursework. (2,500-4000 words).

You will be asked to transform the genres of the texts studied (e.g. novel into film script, play into newspaper article) and write a commentary analysing your own writing.

How will I learn?

You will have two teachers using a range of methods to suit different learning styles.

There will be a focus on close textual analysis, using both linguistic and literary approaches. You will be required to write critical essays and commentaries, give presentations, carry out research, work in groups and take part in whole class discussions. Our aim is to help you develop as independent readers and writers of both ...

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 (ELLB1) 1 ½ hour written examination

Unit 2 (ELLB2) Coursework

Unit 3 (ELLB3) 2 hour written examination

Unit 4 (ELLB4) Coursework

What skills will I need to be successful in this subject?

You must love reading and analysing texts, and be interested in developing your own skills as a writer. You also need to be open-minded and prepared to engage in discussions about moral, ethical and cultural issues.

What are the entry requirements?

Five GCSEs including a grade B in English. As effective written communication is essential, a grade B in English Language is preferred, but you will be considered if you have a grade C as long as you possess the skills outlined above.

What are the opportunities after this course for further/higher education and employment?

An A level in English is a useful qualification for a wide range of careers and university courses.