



A Level: English Language & Literature

English

Course Facts & Figures at a glance...

Subject Leader

Miss Sarson

Course Title

A-Level English Language & Literature

QAN Code

601/4642/4 (A-Level)

Awarding Body

AQA Specification 7707

English degrees offer opportunities to develop your own interests and enthusiasms (especially a love of reading), as well as time to think about a range of personal, cultural and historical issues

English is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of career choices. Contrary to popular belief, teaching is not the main occupation of English graduates. Many go into general management, research and consultancy and the public services as well as publishing and the creative industries.

First things first: at A Level, the combined English Language and Literature course is **very different** from GCSE. This is the study of stylistics. Stylistics is the study and interpretation of texts in regard to their linguistic and tonal style. Don't be expecting 'more of the same' after your GCSE studies. Things are about to get a lot harder!

AQA, the exam board we follow, say: "Our A-level English Language and Literature course 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 course 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. This course differs from those focused primarily on literature by extending its coverage beyond literature to explore differences and similarities between literary texts and others; it differs from those primarily focused on language by bringing the nature of literary discourse into sharper view."

You will be required to study a range of literary and non-fiction texts including F Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*; Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and a selection of Carol Ann Duffy's poetry from her anthology *Mean Time*. In addition, you will study an anthology of fiction and non-fiction inspired by the city of Paris. You will analyse all of these texts stylistically, with a close focus on aspects such as: the representation of place, point

of view and genre in prose, the forms and functions of poetic voice, the role of the individual in society, conflict in drama and creative transformations of texts.

You are required to read a broad range of literary texts and to do so independently. If you do not enjoy reading, you should probably choose a different option. Texts are not read in class; they are analysed,

critiqued and discussed. There is no time to read them. So, if you are not prepared to regularly read independently, then this is not the course for you. In addition, you will be learning to use a range of new linguistic and literary terminology accurately in your analysis and comparison of texts. This will require regular revision from the start of the course.

This course offers opportunities for you to develop your subject expertise by engaging creatively, critically and independently with a wide range of texts. Using literary and linguistic concepts and methods, you will analyse literary and non-literary texts in a range of modes and genres, in the process gaining insights into the nature of different discourses and ideas about creativity. Students will develop skills as producers and interpreters of language by creating texts themselves and critically reflecting on their own processes of production.

The English Department welcomes any students who are passionate about both language and literature and who have the enthusiasm and commitment to really get to the heart of the texts studied. Given the linear nature of the new A Levels, there is much more emphasis on the examined units and so this course will suit students who are able to read and study independently and those who are prepared to engage in meaningful classroom debate and discussion.